

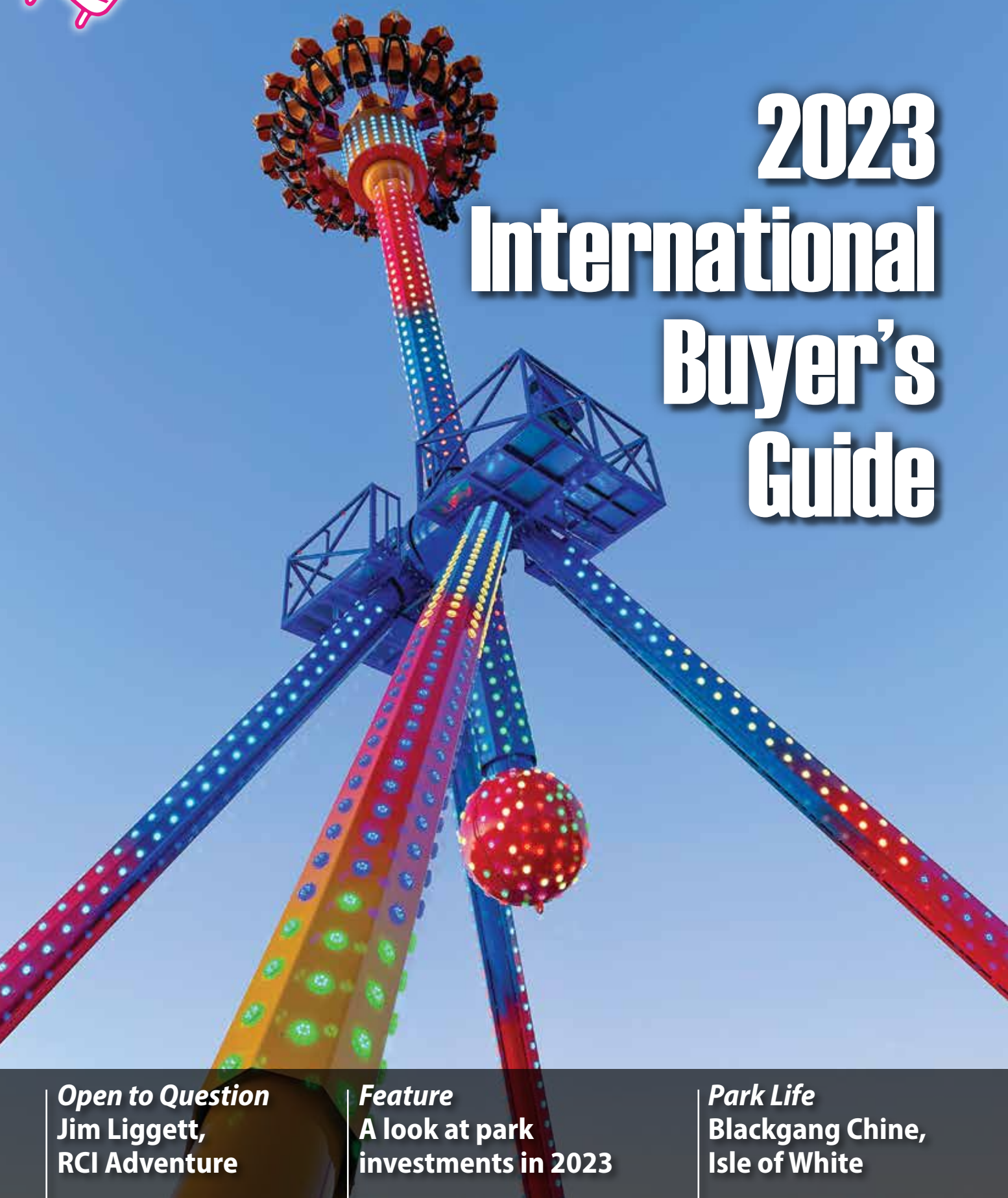
July/ Aug 2023

The specialist international magazine for theme parks and FECs



InterPark

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2023 International Buyer's Guide

Open to Question
Jim Liggett,
RCI Adventure

Feature
A look at park
investments in 2023

Park Life
Blackgang Chine,
Isle of White

MACK RIDES PRESENTS

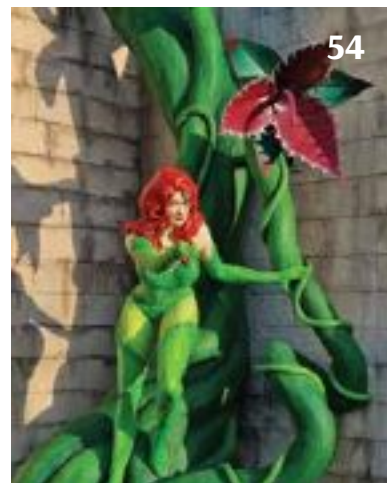
TWIST ,N' SPLASH



TØNNEVIRVEL



Interactive water action now is available for water parks - the Twist 'n' Splash features a water battle that is perfect for all ages. The free floating barrels pass by the many water cannons surrounding the ride and everyone is becoming part of the action. Learn more about Tonnevirvel and other attractions of Mack Rides at www.mack-rides.com



Welcome to the July/August issue of InterPark!

I can hardly believe it's been a whole 12 months since our last Buyer's Guide, yet here we are, doing it all over again - bringing you a select list of key suppliers to our industry - profiling some in more detail as a thank you for their continued commercial support. You will find this year that those profiles not only give you an overview of the company and its mission, but for the most part, also include specific project case studies. Shining a light on how and where their innovations have been implemented.

Elsewhere in the magazine we have our usual fill of editorial - from our regular Open to Question interview, which this issue sees RCI Adventure's Jim Liggett in the hot seat; to our Project Profile, which takes a closer look at the new Batman attraction at Parque Warner in Spain; and then our Park Life feature, this issue celebrating the 180th anniversary of Blackgang Chine on the Isle of White.

Our main feature this issue ties in nicely with the Buyer's Guide, in that we take a look back at key innovations and releases that have taken place in the industry so far during 2024. From dark rides to water parks and everything in between our industry certainly has a lot to offer and continues to keep us guessing.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Buyer's Guide and if for any reason you notice an error in your listing, please do make me aware as soon as possible - we're only as good as the information we receive!

Beth Whitaker

Beth Whitaker Editor



July & August 2023

5 - 6 HITTING THE HEADLINES

News round-up for this month

8 IAAPA EXPO ASIA

Innovations, trends, and advancements

10 BUYER'S GUIDE

Key suppliers to our industry

54 BATMAN GOTHAM CITY ESCAPE

Opens to the public

58 COMMENT

Dennis Spiegel - Let's stand up to the weatherman

60 PARK LIFE

Blackgang Chine - the oldest theme park in the UK

64 OPEN TO QUESTION

Jim Liggett of RCI Adventure Products

67 COMMENT

ADIPS - New initiative to promote high safety standards



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News

The latest news and announcements

1 EMERALD PARK CONFIRMS TWO MAJOR ROLLER COASTERS FOR 2024

Emerald Park in Ireland has revealed a major investment into its park for the 2024 season - with the exciting addition of two new roller coasters.

The two rides are expected to open in time for the start of the 2024 season in spring and come with a significant investment of £19m.

Charles Coyle, owner of Emerald Park, said: "We have been working on this for five years with a huge amount of thought, investment, design and research into this area and have taken every aspect of the theming and all audiences into consideration.

"We will be keeping the 3D model at Emerald Park for the summer but we are then going to take it out on the road at some central locations around the country so people can see exactly what to expect in 2024," he added.

Coyle confirmed that the name of the new Celtic-themed area at the park will be 'Tír na nÓg'. "We are so excited to reveal the name and show everyone the scale of the new roller coasters coming next year," he said.



Dutch manufacturing company Vekoma has been tasked with constructing and creating the two new roller coasters. One of the rides will be a suspended thrill coaster, which spans 750-metres (2460ft), reaches 32-metres (105ft) in height and hits speeds of 90km/h (56mph).

The second coaster will be a family boomerang, targeting the family experience. This ride will cover 450-metres (1,476ft), top out at 25-metres (82ft), and travel along at 60km/h (37mph).

Both coasters are yet to be named. A project five years in the making starting in 2018, construction of the themed area commenced back in August 2022.



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News

The latest news and announcements

2 MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS AND COCA-COLA JOIN FOR RECYCLING INITIATIVE



Merlin Entertainments has partnered with Coca-Cola in a bid to help protect the planet and reduce plastic waste.

Guests have been offered the chance of winning VIP experiences at some of the UK's best-known family attractions in exchange for simply bringing along an empty 500ml plastic bottle and recycling it, at one of the specifically designed reverse vending machines across UK attractions. The announcement is the latest in a series of actions from Coca-Cola Great Britain to encourage people to recycle. As part of its global goal, Coca-Cola aims to help collect and recycle a bottle or can for each one it sells by 2030.



Since the launch of the initiative in 2019, Merlin has collected and recycled over 100,000 plastic bottles through specifically designed Coca-Cola reverse vending machines. There were 28 reverse vending machines on site at 11 participating Merlin attractions over the summer season, including Alton Towers Resort, Legoland Windsor Resort, Thorpe Park Resort, Chessington World of Adventures Resort, Warwick Castle, Sea Life aquariums in Blackpool, Birmingham, Brighton and London, The Blackpool Tower, and Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham.

Elodie Peribere, Marketing Director Coca-Cola Great Britain, said: "We share Merlin's passion for entertainment and goals for sustainability: all of our bottles are 100% recyclable, and this year we added attached caps across our portfolio to make it easier for people to recycle the whole package and help reduce littering."

Meanwhile, Dare Ilori, Group Sustainability Director at Merlin added: "Plastic waste remains a long-term environmental issue and we are committed to raising awareness and helping establish solutions to address it. As a global company, we'll always seek to reduce our impact on the environment with clear, measurable actions. But now we also encourage our guests to respect their own environments and do the right thing for a sustainable future."

"We are proud to partner with Coca-Cola again on this brilliant initiative and to educate our guests to reduce, return and recycle their plastic and protect our planet."

3 NEXT GENERATION LITTLE PLANET OPENS IN JAPAN



Japan's next-generation theme park Little Planet Taichung has officially opened.

Little Planet welcomed its first guests back in May and offers a multi-sensory venue full of lights and sensory activities so children can play and learn in a fun and safe way.

The theme park embraces logical thinking ability through various activities such as its light and sound ball pool Zaboom.

Another fun activity is called Paper Rikishi, where children can draw pictures, which are then projected onto 3D as paper sumo wrestling. And the venue's Sand Party! has utilised AR technology along with sand to let their imagination run wild.

It is a theme park that will appeal to many due to the nature of the learning practises on offer to enlighten children in the most embrave manner.



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Opening Ceremony

IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 closes with positivity

IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 once again ended on a high and marked another milestone in bringing together professionals and industry leaders from around the world. The event, held at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, showcased the latest innovations, trends, and advancements in the amusement, theme park, and attractions sectors.

Over the course of four days, IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 welcomed 5,330 registered attendees, including 3,764

qualified buyers. Guests represented a diverse range of companies, totalling 2,145 buying companies in attendance. As a global event, IAAPA Expo Asia attracted attendees from 75 different countries and regions. The show served as an important platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and forging strategic partnerships among industry stakeholders.

The exhibition floor featured an array of cutting-edge products, services, and solutions from 287 exhibiting



Charles Bingham Senior Executive Vice President and Yao Yao Director of Sales, Asia from Martin Vleminckx USA, LLC.



Mack Rides



Jinma Rides team



Manuel Wolf and Mathias Nick from Hafema Water Rides GmbH



Clair Hain (left) and Olivia Hain, GreatCoasters

companies, including 64 first-time exhibitors. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a vast showcase of state-of-the-art rides, attractions, technology, games, and much more. The event's comprehensive educational programme also included insightful sessions, seminars, and panel discussions, providing invaluable insights into industry best practices, emerging trends, and key challenges faced by attractions professionals.

"We are thrilled regional and global industry leaders were able to gather for IAAPA Expo Asia 2023," said June Ko, executive director and vice president for the IAAPA Asia Pacific region. "The show served as a dynamic platform for our members and seasoned professionals to come together, share knowledge, and discover the latest innovations driving the attractions industry forward. It was truly exciting to witness the energy and enthusiasm of attendees as they explored the diverse range of products and engaged in meaningful discussions."

IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 also featured various special events and networking opportunities, including an opening reception at Universal Studios Singapore, and fostered connections and collaboration among attendees. From the engaging Opening Ceremony to exclusive receptions and after-hours gatherings, participants had ample occasions to build relationships, exchange ideas, and celebrate the industry's achievements.

"This year's event allowed our industry to gather in the Asia Pacific region for an important expo event," said Jakob Wahl, IAAPA's president and chief executive officer. "Our Singapore show will serve as a marker in our industry as we continue regional recovery efforts and is our new baseline for how we grow in the future."

IAAPA is already looking forward to its future endeavours, including IAAPA Expo Asia 2024, taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, May 27-30. With 115 confirmed exhibitors so far, it has 4,600sqm of space booked already. The flagship event will continue to empower the attractions industry, serving as a catalyst for growth, innovation, and success.

Sponsors for this year's event included 11 Skies, accesso, Brogent Technologies, Cosm, DOF Robotics, Gateway Ticketing Systems, Kraftwerk Living Technologies, Leisure Development Partners, Outdoor Factory, PGAV Destinations, Polin Waterparks, Sanderson Global, Simtec Systems, Storibox, Storyland Studios, TAIT, Vekoma Rides Manufacturing, and Water Technology.



Brogent Team.



Troy Schnelle CEO from Art Attack

Once again, winners for the IAAPA Brass Ring Best Exhibit Awards at IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 were also crowned during the event. The tradition of the brass ring, a term now synonymous with spectacular achievement, dates to the 1800s when rings were hung on carousels to pose a fun challenge for riders. Successfully grabbing a ring while riding the carousel often earned the rider a prize, often including an additional free ride. Most rings were made of iron, but a few were made of brass, so grabbing the brass ring was a coveted and celebrated treat.

The IAAPA Brass Ring Awards honour this tradition by celebrating achievements of excellence throughout the global attractions industry. These are considered one of the industry's most prestigious honours. Applicants were judged on their booth design, branding, staffing, product in booth, and overall appeal.

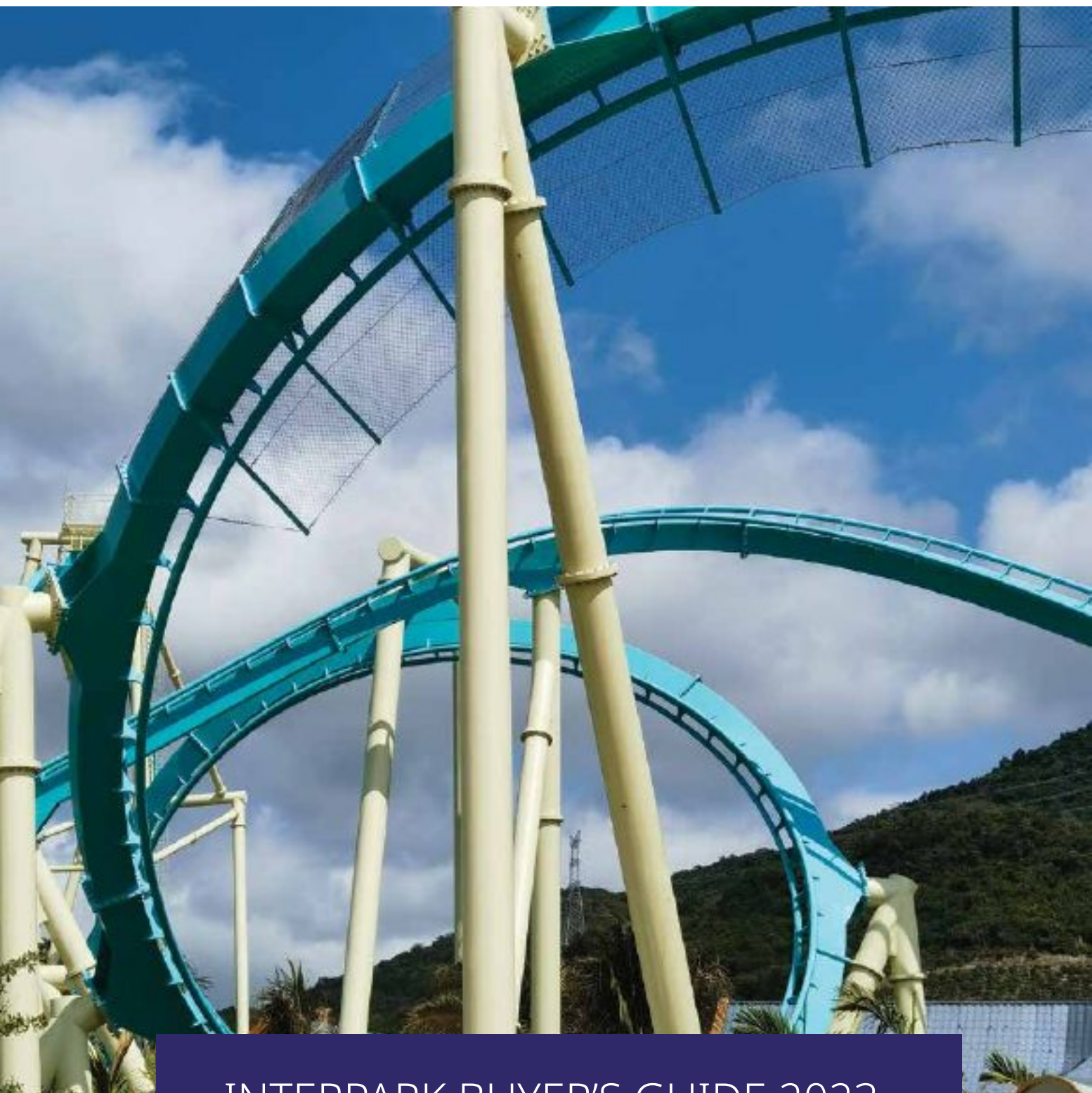
Winners from IAAPA Expo Asia 2023 were as follows:

9-27sqm,	First Place, Mascot Enterprise, Booth L2028
9-27sqm,	Second Place, Shiji Group, Booth L306
36-54sqm,	First Place, Full Dome Pro, Booth L512
36-54sqm,	Second Place, DEI, Booth 329
63sqm+,	First Place, WhiteWater, Booth L1535
63sqm+,	Second Place, DOF Robotics, Booth L1513

"With more than 80 entries, IAAPA is thrilled that our jury of industry operators and members selected the top six winners for IAAPA Expo Asia's Brass Ring Award program," said Jakob Wahl, IAAPA president and chief executive officer. "Marking the return of our premier event with exhibit winners was a tremendous way to elevate the excitement that had been building around our Singapore event."

Buyer's Guide

THE GUIDE TO KEY SUPPLIERS



INTERPARK BUYER'S GUIDE 2023

The International Buyer's Guide

The International Buyer's Guide from InterPark provides you with a select list of key suppliers to our industry - profiling some in more detail as a thank you for their continued commercial support.

You will find this year that those profiles not only give you an overview of the company and its mission, but for the most part, also include specific project case studies. Shining a light on how and where their innovations have been implemented all over the world.

The Buyer's Guide is broken down into sectors for easy referencing purposes - from roller coasters to family rides, from waterpark attractions to multimedia theatres and simulators and more, it's all there and each listing includes all the relevant company information you might need - from postal address, to contact telephone numbers and emails, to website addresses.

If you spot a listing that doesn't look quite right, please do let the team know - after all, we're only as good as the information we're provided.



BoldMove Nation

12

LIGHTING
SOUND SHOWS

12

MAJOR FAMILY
RIDES

24

MIDWAY GAMES
KIDDIE RIDES

25

MULTIMEDIA
THEATRES
SIMULATORS

28

PLAY INTERACTIVE
EQUIPMENT

32

ROAD TRAINS
PEOPLE MOVERS

38

ROLLER COASTERS

48

SERVICE
SUPPLIERS

48

THEMING DESIGN
PLANNING

49

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Alterface Projects is a manufacturer of media-based and interactive attractions across the world. Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Belgium, the company develops advanced technologies to produce intuitive ways for people to interact with their environment and also creates tailor made immersive experiences. Visitors can enjoy Alterface interactive rides at parks including Walibi Belgium, Legandia, Warner Bros. World, Phantasialand, Six Flags, Lego Discovery Centers, Ferrari World, IMG, Lotte World, Hersheypark, PortAventura, Lost Island and many more.

Alterface recently worked with Sally Dark Rides and Daniels Wood Land (DWL) on the newly opened Treasure Hunt: The Ride, an interactive dark ride adventure in Monterey, California. To bring the new ride to life, Sally and DWL turned to Alterface to provide the multimedia interactivity and gameplay that are part of the ride's original storyline.

Guests take part in a modern-day pirate adventure in search of Captain Bouchard's lost treasure. With physical targets - including props and characters and real-time interactive media - Treasure Hunt's interactive elements

are memorable. Massive screens fill several scenes and projection mapping animates various set pieces.

The ride is designed to be a highly interactive experience, immersing guests in the world of pirates and treasure hunting. The attraction combines cutting-edge technology with immersive theming and interactive gameplay to create an unforgettable adventure.

One unique feature of the attraction is the ability guests have to purchase a Power-Up token to make their treasure collectors more powerful, which gives a big advantage when it comes to scoring the most points. The Treasure Collector device includes a new function that allows guests to quickly and easily collect treasure by simply holding down the trigger. This feature adds an extra layer of excitement to the experience, allowing guests to compete with friends and family for the highest score.



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BOLDMOVE NATION

'Creating Happy Worlds' is what BoldMove Nation prides itself on and the manufacturer has been doing just that ever since it was established in 2021 from its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Together with a global network of expert partners, BoldMove Nation creates 'happy worlds' for theme and waterparks, zoos, leisure, and retail venues. Its interactive media dark rides and virtual and augmented reality attractions are based on proven technologies, engaging gameplay and compelling stories.

BoldMove Nation's 'Smash & Reload!' is an interactive media dark ride combining a fun and immersive gameplay allied to a smart ride system. It is based on a two-step intuitive action approach: to 'smash' and 'reload'. The high-energy Smash & Reload ride can be designed to repurpose an existing building or to establish a new attraction at a premium location. The storyline and theming of the ride can be adapted to suit any given visitor attraction. A technologically advanced attraction equipped with a high-level sound system and exciting projection technologies, it represents a thoroughly entertaining experience. Smash & Reload consists of a rotatable vehicle for guests to play the game. In all, there are four scenes during an action-packed four-minute ride

experience. The intuitive gameplay with a fun storyline balances the skills of all players onboard. The first Smash & Reload attraction was rolled at LePal theme park in France last May, under the name 'Champi'Folies', which challenges players to compete for the highest number of points by saving a village from an attack by creatures called 'Mushies' through its TooMush arcade simulation. The park is celebrating its 50-year anniversary and the adopted Smash & Reload ride is a novel addition.

BoldMove Nation CEO Benoit Cornet discusses further: "We're thrilled with the result of a close cooperation between our team and expert partners. Together we succeeded in converting an old 4D cinema into a new and dynamic attraction that blends physical and digital worlds. The TooMush characters are brought alive on screen, and by adding Artificial Intelligence we further personalise guest experiences. The rich and smart theming with 3D decoration includes a real car and lots of fun elements that enhance the immersive feeling of the ride."

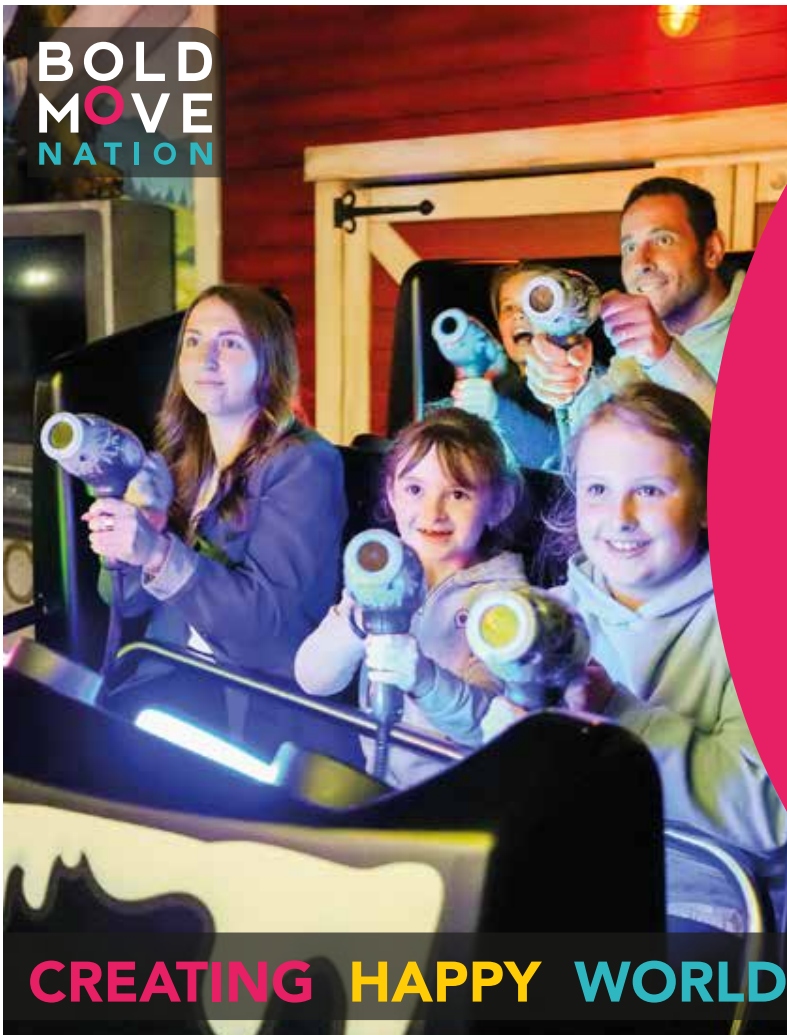


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CREATING HAPPY WORLDS



In 1951, three Italian brothers Luigi, Ferruccio and Marcello Bertazzon joined together with the idea of creating an amusement business. Then in 1963 they officially cemented their identity under the name Bertazzon 3B to signify the three founding brothers..

What started out as a business creating bumper-car buildings and go-karts has led to Bertazzon specialising in manufacturing traditional family-oriented rides across the globe.

The company is known worldwide for its classic Venetian carousels and reliable bumper-cars, but its production range also includes adult and children's bumper-car buildings, go-karts rides and vehicles, Matterhorn, Musik-Express, flying chair carousels, rail rides and dark rides.

Bertazzon 3B is located in the Treviso area of northern Italy with the hallmark of the company being its carefully styled and finished products curated by expert craftsmen. Its attractions can be built for fixed sites or travelling fairsgrounds and can be themed and customised to tailor-made requirements. All products are built according to the European standards and can be certified by German TUV as well as by other certification bodies.

Bertazzon 3B continues to be a family-run company led by the latest generation of Michele, Alex and Patrizia Bertazzon. All family members are actively involved in the everyday management, in direct cooperation with a staff base of approximately 60 people.

The whole production cycle takes place in the firm's own workshop through machining of parts, woodwork,

painting and fibreglass moulding. In addition to the workshop, the company has an impressive spare parts department, which houses hundreds of components for its products, including parts for dodgem cars made as far back as the 1960s.

Bertazzon was present at the latest IAAPA Exo in Asia, where it demonstrated its products and showcased its wealth of experience in the attractions industry.



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BERTAZZON

The Carousel Company

World-renowned ride manufacturer Gosetto has been building a wide range of rides since its journey began back 1977. After 20 years of experience in the field, the Gosetto brothers decided to take the leap and set up their own company, which specialises in building rides for the amusement park and carnival industries.

Gosetto has continued to expand and grow rapidly since its early days. The company is most well-known for its adult and mini-sized bumper car buildings, merry-go-rounds, convoy, rodeo, go-kart tracks, gasoline and floor pick-up system, as well as dark rides, fun houses, bumper car and mini bumper car floor pick-ups, all of which are available in a variety of types and sizes.

"We are seeing that the market is moving more and more towards interactivity, similar in appearance to video games but much more immersive," explained Gosetto. "FunHouses also work really well, fun is guaranteed and people interact with each other."

Gosetto often uses innovative new designs and technology in its rides that the company develops at its laboratories. These elements have allowed Gosetto to

satisfy a range of clients' needs on a continual basis. Monster Jam is one of the newest rides from the Italian manufacturer. The ride is inspired by the hit TV show Monster Jam and features five monster 4x4 cars that wheelie and climb on a rocky surface. The ride also includes rally spotlights, audio effects and LEDs hidden under the bodywork. Children enjoy the feel of driving their own monster truck just like their idols on TV, and Gosetto's cars are accessible to adult passengers, too.

Every car on Monster Jam is also customisable with logos, mascots and colours of the customer at the centre.



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INTERLINK



Interlink was founded in 1982 to design and manufacture a range of high quality, affordable, water-based attractions for the theme parks and attractions industry. With offices in France and the UK, all design and manufacturing work is carried out in-house and the company has developed a variety of water rides to suit a wide range of requirements and budgets.

Interlink's newest Superflume attraction - named Yuta Falls - can be found at Lost Island Theme Park in Waterloo, Iowa, USA. The new ride is the second of its Superflume attractions installed in the past six months, having opened the Tata World River Adventure attraction at Vinwonders Nha Trang in Vietnam at the end of 2022.

Interlink

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The Superflume attraction is one of Interlink's most popular products as it can incorporate theming elements, tell intricate stories and be as intense or relaxed as a client wants. Tata World River Adventure is a superflume / dark ride hybrid that incorporates narrative theming and AV elements to tell the story of a pre-existing IP, already conceived by the park for a show, but now functions as the main story of the new ride. Yuta Falls, located outdoors, focuses on the thrill factor and is a way for guests to cool off from a hot day at the park.

Named Yuta Falls, after the realm of the park where it is located, the ride features a large, fabricated rock structure rising in the centre which intertwines with the ride's water channel, with an etched symbol to represent the Yuta (Earth) as well as a rotating water wheel. The ride layout features two lift hills at heights of seven and 14-metres to ensure ample opportunities for guests to get thoroughly soaked.



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CREATING THRILLS SINCE 1982

Founded in 1982, Interlink design, manufacture and supply a wide range of water rides, including Log Flumes, Super Flumes, Mini Flumes, Rapid River, Water Battle (interactive), Spin Boat, big Chute and Enchanted River - all of which allow the company to cater to different customer requirements and a wide range of age groups.

In addition to water rides, the company also offer Panoramic Towers and Transport Systems. All these attractions can be supplied with special effects and they are generally designed custom made to suit the requirements of the client and the specifics of the location. Interlink also purchase and sell all types of used rides, from Kiddie Rides through to Family Rides and White Knuckle Roller Coasters.

HUSS PARK ATTRACTIONS



Based in Bremen, Germany, Huss Park Attractions is a leading, internationally renowned company specialising in the design, development, manufacture and sale of amusement rides for theme and amusement parks. The Huss team has extensive experience in the fields of engineering, project management, installation, supervision and after sales services for amusement rides.

Huss Park Attractions offers an extensive ride portfolio for parks worldwide, including thrill rides, family rides and film-based rides. These comprise attractions such as the Sky Tower, Giant Frisbee, Condor, Top Spin, Break Dance, King Kong, Movie Base XS and Explorer.

All Huss attractions are available with unique, complex theming designs and illumination concepts specific to individual customer requirements and which enable them to fit perfectly into existing themed areas. Design and technological updates on all rides ensure they always remain popular with guests and successful for operators.

The company's customer base is spread throughout the world and encompasses a wide variety of venues and clients, including amusement and theme parks, outdoor and indoor parks, tourist attractions and resorts, park designers and park developers. Customers include those in regions such as Europe, Russia, Asia (in particular China, Vietnam and Korea), Middle East, USA and Australia.

Huss is pleased to report that it currently has a number of significant projects in discussion with clients in China, Vietnam, USA, Australia and Europe. However, due to non-disclosure agreements client names cannot be revealed, suffice to say that some of these projects are in an advanced stage of progress.

One of the company's recent success stories includes its latest typhoon-classified Sky Tower, which opened to the public at Hainan R&F Ocean Paradise in December 2022. Guests at the popular park in Lingshui, Hainan, can now enjoy riding to the spectacular height of 80-metres in a tower featuring beautiful maritime theming.

Hainan R&F Ocean Paradise is a brand-new park, which covers 133.3 hectares and features several different themed areas, such as Discovery Harbor, Sansha City, and Adventure Ocean. The Sky Tower is located within the Hainan Eco-shore area of the park, where it delivers views over the sea.

The Sky Tower is a huge observation tower with a lifting and rotating circular passenger cabin. Guests sit at the circumference with an outward-facing seat row that delivers a memorable panoramic outside view. The ride needs no seat restraints and features a nice smooth movement, meaning that there are no height or age restrictions for the passengers. After reaching the maximum lift height, the cabin runs through at least one complete circle, so that guests can enjoy the full view around them.

For this project, Huss Park Attractions delivered a typhoon-classified version of its successful Sky Tower. Due to the location of the park, it was important that the 120-metre tall tower is able to safely stand even in cyclones. The observation tower's design includes ocean-themed decorative elements, adding an appealing extra element for guests and encouraging photo opportunities. The machine house follows the wave motion of the sea, and turtles decorate the underside of the gondola, which makes the ride fun for spectators watching from below as well.

For the comfort of riders, the gondola is equipped with air-conditioning and features a double curved window to give wide-ranging views of the beautiful scenery. It is also accessible for guests with disabilities and wheelchair passengers.

Each year Huss Park Attractions supports its global sales efforts by attending all the major attractions industry trade shows around the world. In addition to the China Attractions Expo and the IAAPA Expo Asia, the company will of course be represented at the IAAPA Expo Europe in Vienna and the IAAPA Expo in Orlando.

In order to maintain and cultivate intensive customer contact, Huss is intensifying its trade fair activities. This includes the participation in the Saudi Entertainment and Amusement Show and the DEAL Show in Dubai. Huss will also exhibit at the Vietnam Theme Expo in August.

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WORLD OF RIDES



For over 50 years, World of Rides has been one of the leading manufacturers of children's leisure rides in the UK. From its premises in County Durham the company supplies major shopping centres, retailers, visitor attractions, fun farms, holiday parks, garden centres, family entertainment centres and hospitality centres that include national and single-site operators.

World of Rides' vast knowledge and experience ensures that every ride it manufactures is rigorously tested both in the factory and on-site before being released for sale. The company maintains a dedicated customer support office, which ensures that all of its customers receive the very best advice on the profitable and safe operation of their rides.

World of Rides has recently upgraded its 'Parent & Child' 24v battery operated Driving School cars to make the world of children's road-safety education more fun. The large right-hand-drive side-by-side twin seat cars are fitted with a fully operational dashboard with an ignition key, horn, head lights, direction indicators, along with accelerator and brake pedals that are both exclusively colour-coded, with working brake lights and seatbelts. A

number of vehicle options also means that they can be driven on a street design track and off road.

David Robinson, general manager at World of Rides commented: "The time during the global pandemic allowed us to design and improve some of our existing products, even though there was no market to sell them to... Or at least so we thought. As a result, we developed and produced two new games, Aqua-Ball and Bumper-Ball along with a VR bumper car, which is currently being site tested, and a mini-Fire Engine and a Big Car for outdoor parks, too, which have all proven to be a huge success with the public."



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Zierer has been manufacturing rides for a number of years from its headquarters in Germany. The company's line of production includes the well known and loved attraction 'Wave Swinger', as well as all kinds of roller coasters, family towers, fun and major rides and an advanced dark ride system.

The Wave Swinger, with 48 seats, was built in 1976. To ensure that future generations can enjoy this Zierer classic 45 years later, the company recently reworked the attraction, modernising the controls of the ride together with renewing the main control cabinet and the main operator control console.

Additionally, Zierer added mechanical reinforcements to the structure and did a full testing of the components (non-destructive testing among other things). At the same time, the Wave Swinger received a hydraulic update to fulfil the necessary requirements.

After several test and trial runs at the Zierer premises and after the successful approval by TÜV Süd in April 2023, the ride is now ready to go again. The

Baumgartner family can rely on Zierer's quality and service for many more years to come.

Aside from this, the manufacturer is known for producing a wide range of individually adjustable family rides and thrilling rides for adventure seekers, including the Star Shape. Artistic uniqueness and safety are fundamental with every Zierer design, and the company has gone on to be a reliable partner for installing and equipping attractions and amusement parks around the globe.

For many years Zierer has held a position for being a high-quality manufacturer, with low maintenance requirements and excellent customer support. It offers amusement rides for a range of briefs, be it for families wanting to enjoy some fun together or thrill seekers looking for the ultimate kick. The company is constantly exploring new exciting technologies for existing and future rides. With almost 75 employees, who are experienced craftsmen, mechanical engineers, electricians, technicians and artists, Zierer can provide customer support from design to commissioning to after-sales-services and beyond.

Worldwide you'll find Zierer at parks such as SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Universal Studios Orlando and Japan, Disneyland California, Chimelong Group and OCT China, Europa Park Germany, Merlin Entertainments Group worldwide, PortAventura Spain, Plopsaland Belgium and The Netherlands as well as Liseberg Sweden.

Zierer has also recently worked on a new tower at Legoland Germany. The Fire & Ice Tower - a double family free fall tower with a special theme that embodies the combination of fire and ice in airy heights, while offering its guests the best view and moments of zero gravity.

Commenting on the installation, Zierer said: "We are proud to have been able to contribute to the new world of Mythica at Legoland Deutschland and wish all visitors a lot of fun and enjoyment."

Another family free fall tower was delivered to Dyreparken Kristiansand, a zoo and amusement park in Norway. This is the first Zierer family tower in the country, and it comes with a standard Lighthouse Deco, opening just in time for the 2023 season.

Zierer has also installed jet skis at Canada's Calaway Amusement Park, which will be opened soon. Furthermore, the manufacturer recently worked on the visually striking Kontiki XL swing boat that was delivered to OK Corral in France, which is the first one of this size in Europe. It has a 19-metre halfpipe track and combines rotational and swinging motions for up to 40 passengers.

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Holovis prides itself on designing and installing world-class experiential solutions for global themed entertainment visitor attractions and enterprise clients. The business has two main areas of complementary expertise: its AV specialists focus on system integration and complex AV design, installation, and commissioning, while its award-winning creative design and software teams deliver market-defining attractions, experiential content, digital centrepieces, and turnkey experiences. Holovis is a global company with offices in the UK (Midlands HQ & London), US (Orlando), China (Shanghai), and the UAE (Abu Dhabi) and is made up of in-house global teams of specialist engineers, developers, creatives, producers, data scientists and project managers.

The company's latest installation is the Lego Factory Adventure Ride located in Chuncheon, South Korea at the Legoland Korea Resort. The project commenced its installation phase on 1 November 2021 and was completed on 1 June 2022.

Having originally creating this turn-key attraction at the Legoland New York park for the Merlin Group - working with the company ETF and its AGV people-moving technology - Holovis once again delivered this turnkey attraction including all AV, scenic, software and control systems, as well as full show and set integration, for the Legoland South Korea park.

This unique and technologically advanced attraction utilises Holovis' DeepSmarts and HoloTrac platforms to identify and analyse numerous characteristics of each guest in the AGV ride vehicle and accurately track and replicate their hand and upper-body movements.

This is achieved via the HoloTrac sensor arrays hidden in the scenic elements off-board the ride system and throughout the attraction. These sensor arrays integrate with the HoloTrac's Computer Vision and AI systems and at key moments in the experience, allow the guests to be

transformed into life-sized Lego Minifigures, mirroring the guests' different characteristics and moving in real-time as the guests move.

As this attraction used the very latest computer vision and AI systems within the HoloTrac platform, there was an intensive development and testing period on a like-for-like ride testing rig at Holovis HQ, where its teams installed and configured the unique sensor arrays and developed the on-board processing systems required to deliver the highly challenging and complex attribute recognition solution (hairstyle, gender, shirt colour, glasses etc.) and ensure system accuracy and stability given the many challenges faced around human behaviour, actions and scenarios that would be outside of the team's control. The sensor and software systems were installed in key areas of the attraction to ensure accurate processing of the guest data in real-time from the ride vehicles and to ensure a seamless experience. While working on this project, Holovis had to readily adapt the system to account for the unexpected behaviour of guests, and the increased requirement for face masks, affecting the accuracy of the HoloTrac Mini-Figure generation software. For example, Holovis had placed machine vision cameras at a particular show event expecting guests to be sitting still and looking forward, however, most guests were looking around and behind, taking in the rest of the very eventful scene in the Lego Factory. As such, it had to introduce a new media sequence to the load area, where guests embark the ride vehicles and receive their 'security pass' (while looking up at a screen) to begin the process of determining Lego MiniFigure characteristics.

The project itself was, according to Holovis, "an amazing full turnkey project to be a part of from start to finish. We collaborated with RV vendor, scenic, client, and architects, and it was truly a team effort. The client in Korea was also good to work with and supported our onsite team when we needed local guidance."

Holovis

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For over 30 years Simtec has manufactured customised simulator systems for entertainment attractions. The company delivers premium motion platforms, dark rides and flying theatres, as well as all other elements of high-class simulation, including storyboarding, movie, decoration, multimedia technology, pre- and post-show concepts and civil engineering.

Simtec manufactures exciting entertainment simulator systems such as HEXaFLITE flying theaters, dark rides and FUNRIDE entertainment simulators, alongside the digital signage system ScreenFLITE. It also combines individual system design with modular realisation that can be adapted to fit the specific requirements of clients. In July 2021, the large-scale dynamic theatre Jett Mountain City Pursuit officially opened in the world's first Super Wings themeing area in Chongqing Happy Valley, China. The entire dynamic motion theatre project was designed by Simtec.

Guests enter the storyline with a thrilling flight over Chongqing City and the Liangjiang New District, where Chongqing Happy Valley is located. Three different Super Wings characters can be chosen for the ride.

Simtec

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Simtec delivered the three FUNRIDE large-scale six-DOF hydraulic motion simulators with 21 seats, each including four fully automatic docking systems to guarantee a fast load and unload process. The theming ride vehicles are equipped with special effects such as wind, water and fragrance. Simtec also equipped the theatre with an ultra-high-definition audio and 3D video system to create an all-round immersive experience. Additionally, Simtec recently released the new HEXaFLITE mini, which was specially developed for low ceiling heights of approximately six-metres. The system is available with an electric or hydraulic six-DOF motion system and is well suited to museums and cruise ships.



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Since 1989, RCI Adventure Products has had a passion for manufacturing, installing, and servicing innovative adventure products. RCI Adventure Products continually exceeds client expectations with regard to quality, safety, outstanding service, and family-friendly fun so millions of participants can experience the thrill of an RCI attraction annually. It is the company's mission and responsibility to effectively meet the client's needs by delivering a safe product that is able to maintain high volumes of participants.

RCI Adventure Products recently opened two more Sky Trails with Boondocks. Its Draper, Utah location was just completed this spring and features a 30ft-tall Sky Trail with Sky Rail. Late last fall, its Parker, Colorado location opened another Sky Trail with a 67ft-long Sky Rail. The manufacturer commented: "It's great to have such remarkable relationships with our clients. We originally started our first course with Boondocks back in 2017 at its Northglenn, Colorado location.

"While all of our products are custom-made to fit each of our client's site needs, we made a few unique changes for Boondocks. We added holes in some of the Sky Trail columns for easy light installation. We were also happy to add a sunshade over the Sky Rail takeoff platform, which we don't commonly do. For the Parker location, they were also looking to position the course by the entry but didn't want to block the view of the racetrack.

It took a couple of revisions, but we found a layout that worked very well."

Like all projects though, there were some obstacles to overcome, for example, in Utah it snowed two whole feet while the RCI team was there. The early snowfall delayed them a couple of days, but RCI's Jim Liggett reports, "the team was great. They were out there with shovels scooping out snow."



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Dotto Trains has been a company leader in the production of high quality and long-lasting tourist trains for more than 60 years. It was 1962 when Ivo Dotto built a small train on rails as a hobby for the factory's garden, it immediately became an irresistible attraction for everyone living in the neighbourhood. The allure and success of this little train were proven by the increasing number of children who stopped and glued their noses to the fence every day, watching it in action ever hopeful that they might have a ride on the train...

After 60 years of history, innovation and trains, the passion handed down by the company's founder continues to fuel his dream and their mission: to produce tourist trains that encourage people to travel in an environmentally friendly and comfortable way; enhancing the urban landscape and artistic environment to attract tourism; creating a pleasant experience for all ages. Their mission also includes a constantly evolving and innovative Dotto train for a sustainable lifestyle in every location in the world, respecting people, and the environment by offering a stimulating experience.

Dotto Trains constantly strives to reduce its environmental impact, also investing in R&D of new

electric mobility solutions and suggests this mobility solution for its clients.

Last year, many of the world's natural and zoological parks, from Israel to Latin America chose Dotto Trains' for environmentally sustainable mobility. One such electric Dotto Train was delivered in March 2022 to the Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan zoological centre, Israel, representing the largest variety of wild animals in the Middle East. The project has involved both technical staff of Dotto Trains and the zoological centre Ramat Gam to develop and design the train as desired: it is now possible to visit the 250-acre site of safari and open-air zoo aboard the new electric Muson River locomotive - transporting almost 60 people in a silent and ecological way without disturbing the freely moving animals.

Jonathan Amiel, Mechanical Operations Manager, commented: "The Electric train is the first of its kind in Israel and we are very pleased with its performance and ability to cater to our needs. Our visitors just love it. Personally speaking, the Dotto team is fantastic, hospitable, and very easy to communicate with, allowing for the development and design of the train to meet our and the customers' needs with ease."

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Severn Lamb continues to lead the way in the design, supply, and manufacture of light urban, leisure, and resort transportation. The company presides over 50 years of experience in moving people, including specialised expertise in theme park train manufacturing and catering for leisure parks, attractions, resorts, and municipalities. The key to Severn Lamb's success can be framed in one word: passion, which lies in delivering high-quality, tailor-made solutions that align with specific requirements.

The company's most recent project was Dayton's new railroad project at Carillon Historical Park, Ohio, USA, opening on 15 May. Patrick Lamb, who has worked in the industry for nearly 20 years, acknowledged Dayton's new railroad holds a special place in their accomplishments.

Ever since Lamb visited Dayton in 2016, having laid eyes on the model of the Cincinnati locomotive, this became the early stages of a foundational design inspired for Dayton's New Railroad. In 2020, work officially began on the railroad - building a 3ft gauge for the railroad to align with the overall vision of the site. Severn Lamb's designers and engineers collaborated with Brady Kress, President & CEO of Carillon Historical Park, to customise the Jupiter locomotive to become an authentic representation of the original Cincinnati locomotive from 1851. The customisation included modifications to the pilot, front trucks, drive wheels, imitation valve gear, smokestack, sand and steam domes, whistle, safety valve and bell.

Severn Lamb also integrated the latest electric drive train technology into the design. The train's powertrain system features four large 30kw motors, a 220kw battery pack, and advanced control gear. This electric powertrain was engineered to effortlessly haul 150,000 lbs (68 tonnes) of train at 6mph along the one-mile loop, including gradients reaching 3%.

During 2021/2022, Severn Lamb dedicated over 10,000 hours to detailed design and manufacturing, bringing

the locomotive, named Jane Ellen, to life. The process involved extensive production, creating new patterns for the drive wheels, casting and machining the wheels, and fitting them with appropriate tyres, akin to the original manufacturing process.

In 2022, Jane Ellen underwent thorough factory acceptance testing after which, it was carefully packaged and shipped to Dayton, Ohio, arriving after a 10-day ocean journey. Severn Lamb's team of engineers meticulously commissioned the locomotive before handing her over to Brady's team.

In addition to the rolling stock, Severn Lamb's team, led by Chris Freed, also undertook the design, supply, and installation for the Dayton Historical Park journey. They employed the world's only 3ft gauge rail tamper, guaranteeing the track's quality.

Patrick Lamb's return to Dayton in 2023 marked his first visit since 2016. He stated while Severn Lamb has been involved in numerous prestigious projects worldwide, including Disney's modern-day railroads, Dayton's New Railroad was an especially proud build: "The seamless integration of the train, track, civil infrastructure, and surrounding buildings within Carillon Historical Park has created an awe-inspiring experience that exceeds expectations," he said.

Severn Lamb expressed its appreciation towards Brady Kress, Carillon Historical Park, and the entire project team for their collaboration and trust in bringing Dayton's New Railroad to fruition, adding that "The company takes immense pride in contributing to the rich historical and cultural heritage of Dayton, Ohio."

In November 2022, Severn Lamb acquired US stalwart Trams International, which has allowed the company to immediately broaden its diverse range of rubber tyred visitor transport and mobility solutions.

A third-generation family business, Severn Lamb continues to create effective design and manufacture of innovative rail solutions including theme park railroads, custom electric trains, and various railway technologies. The company's commitment to blending tradition with cutting-edge technology solidifies its reputation as a trusted partner in the rail industry.



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Transport Design International (TDI) is an award-winning transport solutions provider. TDI has a dedicated team of designers, engineers, and production specialists with experience of running projects worldwide from our offices in the UK.

TDI's reputation has been built on delivering 125 projects in 12 countries. The company has worked with theme parks, attractions, and zoos across the globe for more than 30 years and is now further integrating its technology and products to serve additional leisure applications.



TDI team collecting their 2023 Rail Innovation Award.

With innovative technologies and deployment tools such as duty cycle mapping and capacity analysis for passenger numbers, TDI can help to make the move to zero-emission vehicles seamless. Duty cycle mapping allows customers to assess battery operated vehicles and advise on the best battery solution for a particular project, and our capacity analysis tools will model the transport system at peak times.

Additionally, TDI offers route mapping, which collects helpful data that influences the layout of major attractions within a site, to create a route plan that suits the requirements within an attraction and to demonstrate how to best distribute park visitors at peak operational times.

Its passionate team are focussed on road and rail mass transport solutions. Their meticulous approach consists of producing initial feasibility studies and planning support of route planning, terrain analysis, funding and capacity analysis and future proofing. This leads to the engineering stage of vehicle design, agile manufacturing, full testing and supported deployment.

TDI's sustainability mission is "to reduce the environmental impact of people mover systems and to provide sustainable cost-effective outcomes." To achieve that, TDI offers a vehicle range of Lync, Orbit and Vectus that are fully sustainable lightweight and zero-emissions battery operated trains, trams and people movers deploying the latest technology.

Vectus is an intelligent, automated people mover which meets all the safety and operational standards required of a traditional rail-based transit system. Vectus can also provide the 'last mile' of transportation, for example,

from a resort to an attraction, which might otherwise involve a taxi ride or a bus.

Meanwhile, the semi-segregated Lync is a state-of-the-art, bi-directional, light urban transit vehicle designed to move high numbers of visitors quickly and safely. Lync is a spacious, long distance, zero-emissions transport vehicle with excellent manoeuvrability for all locations available as road or rail solution. It is lightweight and includes in-service fast opportunity charging allowing 24/7 service.

Orbit is a uni-directional vehicle utilising an LTO battery power unit with autonomous capability for segregated environments. This state-of-the-art, light transit vehicle has been designed to connect cities visitors' attractions, airports and exhibition sites with local transport hubs. TDI has a solution for all, including its 'SmarTrax' track system, specifically designed to support very light transport. The design philosophy is based around the need to reduce infrastructure installation costs and provide intelligent track monitoring capability to manage wear and tear. The track is quick to deploy and simple to maintain.

Another sustainable initiative of TDI is its Local Manufacturing Centre ("LMC") concept allowing the local assembly of vehicles to increase investment in the "local" economies, and delivering on its 'Create Local, Deliver Local' mantra.

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Founded in 2007, Jinma Rides is a leading ride designer and supplier for international IP-themed parks. The company owns three production bases (R&D of major rides, R&D of immersive rides and fabrication of roller coasters), as well as two international branches in Hong Kong and Switzerland for the rides designed under EN standard. It provides a one-stop service for amusement parks and cultural and tourism entities, from product development, manufacture and installation to park planning, investment and operation.

Jinma operates its businesses in the emerging cultural industry, cultural tourism equipment manufacturing industry, and the gaming and amusement industry. By integrating creative concepts, advanced technologies, and safety concepts, Jinma has developed a large portfolio of more than 300 rides under 13 categories, covering coasters, tower rides and immersive attractions, and many of them are the first of their kind ever built in China and abroad.

Jinma owns intellectual rights to all of the ride products it supplies. Over the years, the company has gained a large market share in the domestic high-end amusement attractions market, supplying supreme ride products to theme parks and major amusement parks. Globally, Jinma has its rides installed in over 30 countries and regions.

As a leading force in China's amusement industry, Jinma continues to enhance its research and development capacity. Relying on its core advantages of independent creativity, planning and R&D capabilities, strong production capacity and sound marketing ability, it vows to further develop high-end markets both at home and abroad, striving to build itself into a prominent global brand.

Recently, Jinma Rides launched a new AGV water dark ride named Zao He Long Yun Cheng in Suqian City. The new dark ride offers an enhanced immersive experience thanks to its virtual and realistic environments. It also uses film and strong exterior packaging to create realistic scenes, including the history of a river. The

waves and lake ripples are all in time with the film. The new installation is also equipped with special effects including machine models and projections. Tourists ride a dynamic coaster in the dark, experience realistic scenes created by virtual reality, go deep into the blissful illusion while driving, and fight various realistic monsters, too.

Additionally, Jinma also launched the LSM coaster TSC-20A at Silk Road Paradise in China. The new ride uses technology including an integrated die casting process, a lightweight ergonomic safety seat, and a linear synchronous motor drive which is also developed by Jinma.

Driven by this motor, it creates a launch sensation of immediate driving. The TSC-20A propels to commanding heights and ejects out of the station at a speed of four seconds at 100-metres, giving riders an unparalleled feeling of intense speed.

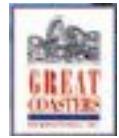
The coaster's seat frame is built of an aluminium alloy, which is two thirds lighter than a steel frame. Additionally, the seat was created by employing ergonomic theory together with data from several figures. Passengers are released from upper body restrictions by the leg-pressing safety bar, allowing them to freely move whilst on the ride.

When the launch starts, it gives passengers a refreshing thrill of extreme speed, and then smoothly connects to the high-speed taxiing stage. Eastman loops, standing loops, sidewind loops, gyrations, and spiral loops are interlocking, smooth and exciting. At the end of the journey, the length of the braking section is long enough to slow down the speed, bringing passengers to a smooth end.



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GREAT COASTERS



Great Coasters International (GCI) is most well-known for its work on the application of smooth, twisted, and high-quality wooden roller coaster attractions across the world.

Located in Pennsylvania since 1994, its staff, comprising engineers, project coordinators, and field construction supervisors have earned global recognition for their outstanding work in the parks and attractions field. The brand's attention to detail makes the addition of a GCI wooden coaster a solid investment for any park looking to add a new attraction or enhance an existing, ageing coaster. It is an investment with a company that views itself as a partner, that also offers a lifetime of service and support after the attraction is open.

Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri, recently welcomed the return of its iconic Zambezi Zinger coaster after 26 years. Complete with its bobsled style seating, iconic spiral lift hill and a thrilling underground tunnel, Zambezi Zinger was an extremely popular attraction at Worlds of Fun. But after the 1997 season, Zinger was removed and shipped to Colombia, where it continues to operate to this day at Parque Del Café.

Even after its departure, the legend of the ride lived on at Worlds of Fun. In August of last year, the park announced that the coaster would return in an all-new way for the park's 50th anniversary, both paying homage to the original version of the coaster and bringing a brand-new experience to visitors with a new twist, designed by Great Coasters.

Founded in 1973 by Lamar Hunt, Worlds of Fun started as Kansas City's Family Fun Adventure. It quickly grew into a theme park larger than any amusement park in the Midwest. Today, it spans more than 325 acres with unique themed areas, a record-breaking waterpark named Oceans of Fun, and the resort for getaways that feel worlds away with the Worlds of Fun Village.

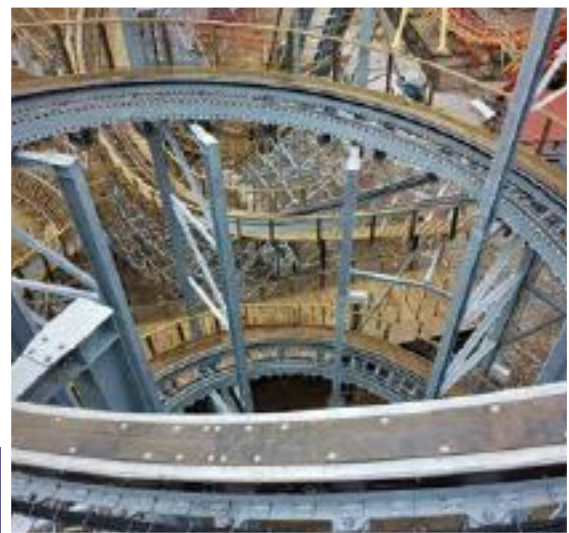
This new installation and upgrade by Great Coasters and Skyline Attractions marked the first use of infinity flyer trains and the first hybrid coaster for the company with

a steel spiral lift. The new coaster was custom designed to be low-to-the-ground with twists and turns on a very unique topography. It is 756.5-metres in length; has a 22.5-metre drop hill height; 72.4km/h speed; a 33.5-metre tunnel length and has a two-minute duration time.

This coaster pays homage to the original Zambezi Zinger. However, this time it is all wood except for Great Coasters' titan track on the spiral lift and a little section on the drop hill. Clair Hain, co-founder of Great Coasters, said: "We hope the new one brings just as many memories and fun as the last one. So far, I can definitely say we accomplished that. It is one of my favourite coasters I've done so far, it will be very hard to beat. For a small ride, it is just fantastic. From the steel spiral lift, the snappy turns, and swiftness in the ride I can't decide what I enjoy more!"

Guests entering the Africa section of the park approach the Adventure Safari Tours building, prompting riders to 'discover the legend of the Zinger'.

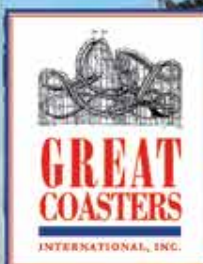
While guests are queueing they can explore an assortment of crates, posters, and other props that enhance the 'safari' feel. Upon entering the station, guests board one of the eight rows of the jeep-styled trains seating two across and pull down their lap bar.



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ZAMBEZI ZINGER



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It is the first ever **hybrid coaster (wood and steel)** with a steel spiral lift. Zambezi was custom designed for **low-to-the-ground twists and turns** on a unique topography. Special features: one-of-a-kind spiral lift hill with titan track. First coaster to use GCI's state-of-the-art **Infinity Flyer Trains**.

Ride Length: 2,482' [756.5m]
Drop Hill Height: 74' [22.5m]
Max. Speed: 45mph [72.4 Km/h]
Tunnel Length: 110' [33.5m]
Ride Duration: Approximately 2:00 Minutes
Manufacturer: Great Coasters International Inc.
Engineer Design: Skyline





Since 1967, Intamin amusement rides has continued to excel in the sphere of the theme park industry. A leading manufacturer at the forefront of cutting-edge builds, Intamin is a bespoke supplier of amusement rides, attractions and people mover systems offering a large complementary line of products.

From roller coasters to water rides (e.g. flume rides, rapids rides), observation and vertical rides to round rides and immersive rides, Intamin has its finger on the pulse when it comes to fun attractions and satisfying customer demand.

The company has various offices located throughout the world, with three in Europe, three in Asia, and two in the USA. Intamin has built more than 170 roller coasters around the world - demonstrating to be a benchmark company of the past, present, and future.

The manufacturer is synonymous with innovation, quality and creativity as shown by the numerous reputable international awards for 'Innovation in Technology' and 'Best Ride' categories and its customer list reads like a 'who's who' of the industry.

One of Intamin's latest creations can be found in France at Parc Astérix in the shape of the record-breaking launch coaster Toutatis. Holding two main records for being the fastest multi launch coaster in France and the record for the most airtime on any steel coaster, at 23 times, it opened on 8 April this year and features seven LSM launches, five forward and two backward with a technologically advanced LSM launch system.

The ride had an investment of £24m and covers more than 1100-metres (3608ft) with a top speed of about 110km/h (68mph). Riders experience a height of 51-metres (167ft) through its Top Hat element.

Toutatis immerses thrill seekers into the world of the Gaulish heroes Asterix and Obelix and takes them on a 75-second unforgettable journey. Intamin developed three 20-seater trains with ergonomically shaped seats and over-the-shoulder-lap-bar, ensuring freedom and



comfort in combination with the highest safety for passengers onboard.

A project five years in the making, which started on 15 November, 2018, when Intamin and park operator Compagnie des Alpes officially unveiled the unnamed launch coaster at the IAAPA Expo in Orlando, Florida. Delayed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, construction finally began in Autumn 2021, with clearing the land outlined for construction and initial foundation work. Throughout the winter of 2022, various coaster tracks arrived and were set up in the park - with the highest point of the track connected in June 2022. Testing then began in January 2023 ready for its spring opening.

The roller coaster is also complemented with its own themed area called Festival Toutatis with "an exceptional scenography that is in keeping with the spirit of a 'Gallic Festival' in the middle of the Forest of Carnutes where the Gallic tribes come to celebrate their God Toutatis". The Intamin team told InterPark how proud they are of having contributed to the success of Parc Astérix and acknowledged the entire team of Parc Astérix and CDA for the cooperation.

"Toutatis is a fun machine, developed within a close collaboration between Parc Astérix / CDA and Intamin," said Intamin's Michèle Jehle. "The entire focus of the layout is on more than 30 different elements, including 23 airtime moments during a 75 second journey; accumulating 22 seconds of airtime - a new record breaker in terms of airtime for Europe!"

Alongside its work at Parc Astérix, 2023 has so far been another highly successful year for Intamin as the company also aided in the development of PortAventura's new dark ride 'Uncharted: The Enigma of Penitence,' which opened on 16 June.



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MACK RIDES



As a family business, Mack Rides has contributed enormously to the visitor attraction industry throughout its 240-year history. The company is acknowledged as a market leader for the development and construction of amusement park attractions worldwide. For eight generations, the Mack family has combined daringness, experience, and tradition in the amusement industry. What started as a small carriage workshop has grown into a modern, family-owned ride production, but nonetheless has retained its down-to-earth credentials.

Mack Rides represents the past, present, and future of the industry; a forward-thinking establishment and uses innovative new developments, customer-oriented ride construction, and continues to influence the world of theme park rides. The company describes itself as 'the unique constellation of being a ride manufacturer and park operator that allows us to develop - from practice, for practice - optimal solutions for customers. It's exactly this uniqueness that builds the solid foundation of our areas of expertise: quality, reliability, durability, investment security and design.'

Its success is built on the values of an inventive spirit and real passion for speed and technology. The German ride manufacturer delivers on entertainment and lives up to its motto of 'we make people smile'.

Today, Europa-Park is Germany's biggest theme park with an attendance of more than five million visitors each year owned by Dr Roland Mack, Jürgen Mack, and Michael Mack, over 90% of the rides were created and built by Mack Rides. All three owners share a passion for creating the best rides in the industry and with Europa-Park as its centrepiece, the company can continue to build and strive for optimum daily operation and maintenance. An expertise unique in the industry.

Mack Rides has created many attractions during its illustrious career and one of its latest attractions promises to add to its storied history - a brand new roller coaster opening in 2024 at Europa Park. The coaster will be the main attraction of a new Croatia themed area. It will be a double launch roller coaster, which is primed



to be named 'Voltron Coaster' and courtesy of the park's in-house manufacturing arm, Europa Park is preparing guests for a ride with the tagline 'Welcome to the Electric Age'.

During the latest construction video on Mack Rides' media portal, a taster of the new ride can be seen. An attraction with seven inversions, it will first propel riders upside down with a brief pause before shooting down to the next set of ride elements. The coaster will twist and turn and brush past greenery and trees and intertwine with the coaster itself.

The attraction then comes to a halt before turning around 180° on a turntable before being launched again backwards then forwards for a second dose of adrenaline thrills. The ride will reach 56mph and hit heights of 107ft.

"It will be another spectacular highlight for Europa Park and when opened, the coaster will be one of the most modern and spectacular coasters in Europe," said the manufacturer upon the rides' unveiling.

The coaster will have a brown tone track and reflect the wisdom of inventor Nikola Tesla, whose experiments with cosmic energy and links to Croatia are the blueprint for the theme. It is clear that Mack Rides has put a lot of thought and creativity to give participants the best possible ride. The coaster will be Europa Park's 14th in total and is set to propel riders headfirst into this proposed Electric Age in 2024.



Mack Rides

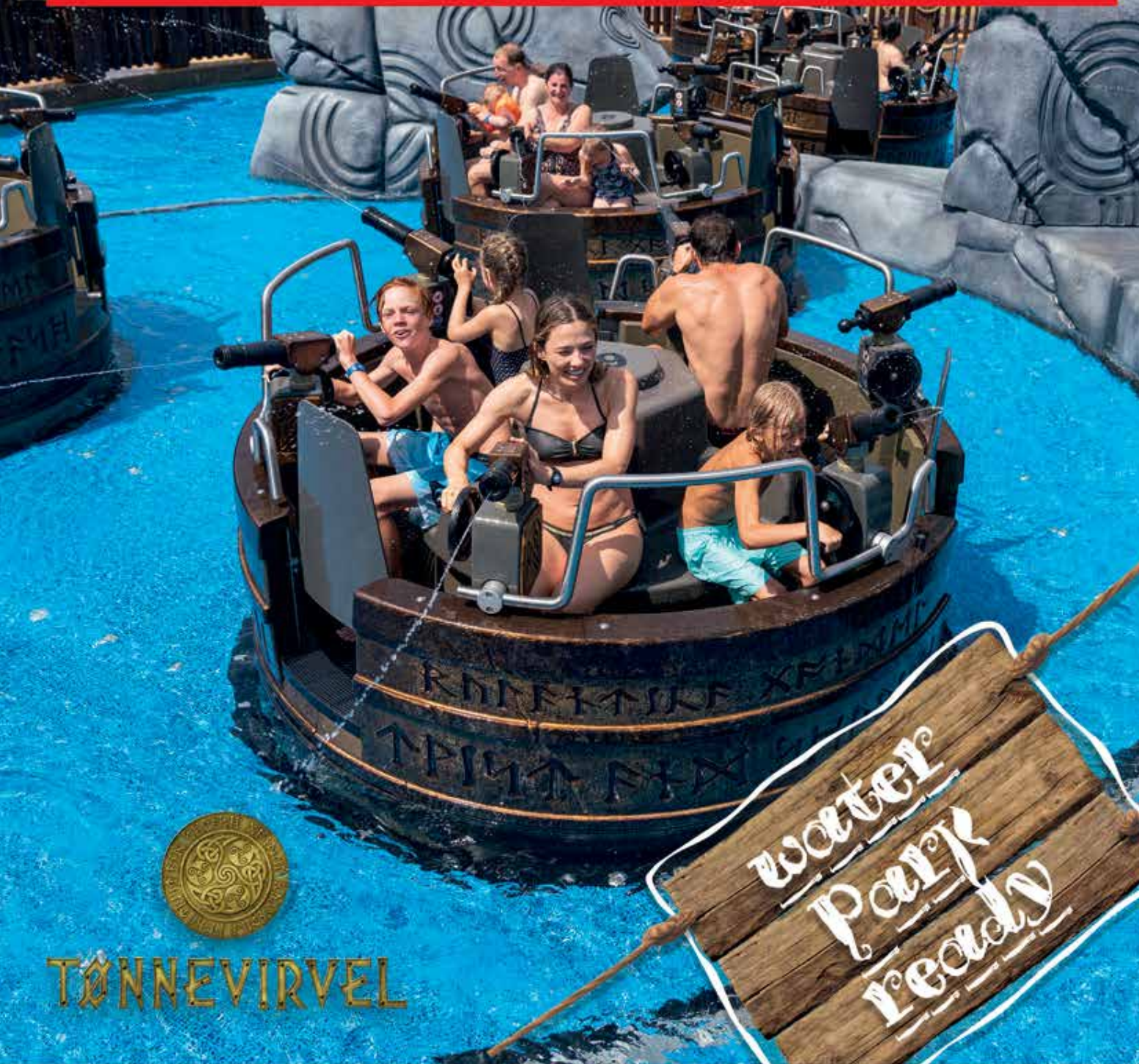
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MACK RIDES

Interactive water action now is available for water parks - the Twist 'n' Splash features a water battle that is perfect for all ages. The free floating barrels pass by the many water cannons surrounding the ride and everyone is becoming part of the action. Learn more about Tonnevirvel and other attractions of Mack Rides at www.mack-rides.com



Vekoma Rides is one of the largest roller coaster manufacturers in the world, a market leader in the industry and a company that is known for its quality and innovation as reflected in its many installed family and thrill coasters and special attractions.

With in-house disciplines from sales, R&D, engineering, production, project management to parts and services, Vekoma has gained worldwide recognition with presence in over 50 countries. With its headquarters in The Netherlands and presence in different countries around the world, Vekoma is easily accessible to its customers wherever they may be.

Whether clients want to create a new family coaster that appeals to children, teens, parents and grandparents, are looking for a new heart-pounding experience to delight thrill seekers, or want to develop any other attraction that will make their venue a success, Vekoma has the ability to assist parks in their journey.

Vekoma hit the headlines recently for its work on Dollywood's newest and largest ever attraction Big Bear Mountain, which Dolly Parton herself paid a visit to. The \$25m roller coaster launches park guests from its ride station on an exhilarating search for the elusive 'Big Bear', a mythical bear of epic proportions, which is said to live in the hills near the park's Wildwood Grove area. At 3,990 linear ft, the ride is ¾-mile long and becomes the longest roller coaster at the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee park. Dollywood guests are invited to assist Wildwood Grove's resident wilderness explorer, Ned Oakley, in his quest to find Big Bear.

Big Bear Mountain marks an expansion of Wildwood Grove, the three-time and current winner of the Golden Ticket award for Best Theme Park Kids' Area. The new ride's massive structure hugs six acres of undulating topography, which runs along the Grove, with riders racing high and low, searching for the legendary bear. Featuring a top speed of 48mph, Big Bear Mountain

takes guests through three separate launches, multiple airtime hills, high-speed carousel turns, and tunnels, including a pass behind a waterfall.

In addition to becoming the longest roller coaster at Dollywood, Vekoma's Big Bear Mountain also marks the first attraction at the park to feature on-board audio. The sound system provides auditory thrills to match the ride's dynamic movements as guests come daringly close to Big Bear. The highly-detailed coaster trains resemble four-wheel-drive SUVs and feature working headlights and taillights. Each coaster train seats 20 guests.

Speaking of the ride, Vekoma said: "Our partnership with Dollywood over the past few years has been outstanding. Dragonflyer was a great initial step, where we were able to demonstrate our capabilities, both when it comes to the quality of the product, as well as our customer-centric approach, working hand in hand with their team throughout the entire process. Coming back now with Big Bear Mountain is extremely rewarding. The project is much larger in scale and scope and was custom designed especially for that section of the park.

"The low height requirement of 39ins was required from Dollywood given how family- oriented the park is and how scarce rides with such a low height restriction are. Vekoma had the perfect solution for it - a vehicle that can safely carry riders while offering an exciting ride experience for an older audience, too - it is the best of both worlds. We commonly see family coasters with a much taller height restriction, which ultimately leave a large number of younger visitors out. We were able to successfully tackle that with Big Bear Mountain."



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EMPEX WATERTOYS



Since 1986 Toronto-based EmpeX Watertoys has provided creatively interactive water toys and spray features for water playgrounds and water parks across the globe, including campgrounds, city parks, water parks, amusement parks, family entertainment centres, day camps, resorts and more.

From the beginning, owner Wyeth Tracy's goal was to differentiate his company from the rest with his dedication to quality and design. EmpeX products are created from extremely strong reinforced composite plastics and are available in a variety of standard and custom shapes in signature EmpeX colours, creating a dynamic and colourful water playground.

Ergonomically designed for safety, EmpeX's products are non-metallic and provide low electrical and thermal conductivity as they are manufactured with special resistant and corrosion-free plastics for use in chlorinated water. Thanks to this, the brand offers a lifetime corrosion warranty, low heat conductivity on hot days and low electrical conductivity in cases of electrical storms.

Much lighter than metal, the installation of EmpeX products and features requires no elaborate foundations or built-in anchors. Completely surface mounted, the features are easily retrofitted to existing water supplies or changed to vary the splashpark design from year to year. EmpeX Watertoys also uses larger pipe sizes that are unique to the market, allowing the company to present bolder, brighter colours. Composite plastics also allow EmpeX more latitude to design high-quality, creative, tactile forms, which are attractive and safe for child interaction.

EmpeX creates water parks without standing water and wading pools with beach entry. Splashparks utilise multiple animated Aquadecks, Aquajetz and above-ground Aquatons water features, interactive Watertoys and Aquanetics to create a vibrant and educational water play area for children ages 2-12. Aquacircus, Aquatropica, Aquazoo, Aquamar and Aquamotivs, Aquaspeed, Aquawest, Aquafarm, Aquacastle,

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Aquagalaxy, Aquadolce, Aquabild and Aquaflite are new themed categories of aquatic features now available. The company has over 450 different water features and water structures with 20 different themes. It has provided water features to the likes of Hilton, Westin, Marriott, Holiday Inn, Novotel hotels, Carnival, Royal Caribbean and MCS Cruise Lines, Warner Bros Park, Cedar Fair parks, Paramount parks, Six Flags, as well as numerous city parks.

Recently, EmpeX completed a project at Mundo Imagina, a theme park in Mexico. The company was selected to design a splashpark for the park, which was created to support the Dr Sonrisas foundation, a nonprofit organisation that supports thousands of children who have advanced / terminal illnesses. The park supplies the foundation with resources, volunteers, and funds, and gives children the chance to immerse themselves in a world of fantasy and magic.

The splashpark project is one of many attractions in the park. EmpeX provided water features that would accommodate children up to the age of 12, alongside a central piece that included an Aquadek in the Aquatropica theme with various interactive water features and two large waterslides. Surrounding the Aquadek several watertoys and colourful play features were arranged with different heights and sprays for younger children.

This particular project was challenging for EmpeX because the shipment had to travel far overland and quite a distance from port to Tizapan, Alvaro Obregon, Mexico. One truck was lost in the process, meaning that the park could not be fully assembled on time, but eventually the truck was found and the project was completed successfully.





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With headquarters in Barcelona, Spain, Rolba Loisir has been established in the amusement industry for more than 20 years, with its CEO bringing 35 years of waterpark industry experience to the business.

Having started life with just four employees, the company has grown to become 20 members of staff, all of which specialise in the design, creation and installation of waterparks and theme parks throughout Europe, as well as in some parts of South America and Asia, specifically China, Korea, and Vietnam and more recently in Russia for the company's first experience.

Rolba Loisir's expertise and technological capabilities, means it is able to design an infinite range of water or dry sports facilities made from a glued laminated wood with a rot-proof coating. Made up of various brands - Rolba Loisir, Rolba Fun, Rolba Run, Rolba Nautic, Rolba Waves and Rolba Motioneering - the company is constantly working on developing new attractions, such as the Half Pipe, which was one of the first installations in Europe in 2012 at the waterpark Aquabrava Park in Roses, Spain. As well as this, based on its experience in the Alpine ski resorts with the Rolba Run brand, the company designed a novel attraction called Family Rafting River where all the family travels along a river inside a dark tunnel, imitating an underground river.

Having been in production for more than 10 years, the Rolba Motioneering brand is a leader in the field of conveyors for rivers or attractions with or without customers on the conveyor. Rolba Loisir has developed automatic starters for Canadian water slide companies, which allow considerable savings in personnel to be made at the park when starting the slide with a buoy or boats.

The Spanish company's attention to detail through its customer base enables the team to respond to any technical queries or the manufacturing of the structural and installation work. And this year is no different with



Rolba Loisir having had a productive 2023 so far with several maintenance jobs scheduled by many water parks. The company has configured many installations such as its conveyor, automatic starter, and also, with its Rolba Run brand, it has confirmed a strong demand for spare parts for summer sleds in the first half of the year.

Rolba is also well aware of the importance of electrical energy consumption, among other water parks, with a demand from the industry for special metal structures for the production of electrical energy with solar panels. In terms of its future projects, Rolba Loisir is excited with what lies ahead on the horizon. It confirms that its projects in Asia are starting to profile themselves again leading to strong possibilities in the very near future and are very confident about the years to come in relation to the many studies that have come back recently.

A full-service innovator and supplier to the global waterparks industry, Rolba Loisir promises innovative and high-quality attractions to quench the thirst of ride enthusiasts worldwide.



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We specialize in the leisure industry and in particular in the design, creation and installation of water parks and theme parks throughout Europe and to some extent in North Africa and South America.



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Batman: Gotham City Escape Parque Warner Madrid, Spain

By David Whitworth





“The night is darkest just before the dawn.” A line synonymous with the famous Batman franchise and in the case of Parque Warner Madrid, in Spain, the dawn has come in the shape of its blockbuster roller coaster Batman: Gotham City Escape.

Batman: Gotham City Escape opened to the public on 13 May to a fanfare of festivities. It is the most recent batch of Batman themed rides at Parque Warner Madrid, with guests also able to get their Batman fill onboard *Shadows of Arkham* and *Mr. Freeze, Ice Palace*, as well as enjoying a new Batman spectacle show.

And Parque Warner Madrid has put every effort into creating a frenzy of expectation with social media posts for many months building the anticipation of the ride. The park even created a mini video of Batman and The Joker squaring off in the days leading up to the opening of the ride.

Riders venture to Gotham City and are immersed in a setting highly authentic to the Batman franchise. The ride is surrounded by huge black gates and to enter, guests pass through these grand gates of Gotham City and enter the impressively detailed queue line running through the fabled home of Wayne Mansion, a rustic wood textured building topped off by various turquoise domes - making for a very comic book like setting. Once inside, guests are greeted by DC comic characters such as The Joker and Poison Ivy; they also get a greeting from Bruce Wayne himself before riding. The queue line takes in rooms in keeping with the Batman saga such as Bruce Wayne's study room, where guests pass through a concealed door between the book stands, which lead to the infamous lair of the Batcave with all its gadgets, technology and impressive illuminated décor. The narrated story continues through detailing the mission

of Batman. Guests pass through Robinson Park and the wonderfully themed Gotham City Metro, lined with white and black tiles and posters of Batman. This leads to the ride station itself with chandeliers and more rustic theming present.

And the roller coaster, built by Intamin, lives up to the billing. Batman: Gotham City Escape is a multi-launch ride featuring 12 technical elements of corkscrews, a top hat, camelback, reverse sidewinder, zero g stall and spike section, there is also on-board audio narrating the journey into Gotham City. These thrill sections, coupled with immersive theming and powerful storytelling, transport guests wonderfully into the story of Batman.

Riders commence their journey by being launched out of a green misty tunnel, banking left and riding upon its menacing black track while sharply picking up speed as they enter the first upside down feature. Then, riders are hurled along a second launch system rising towards its top hat feature. A nifty element is when riders approach the top of the top hat and are suspended for a brief moment with an anticipation stall holding them back before gravity takes over once more. It almost feels like you won't make it over the hump and roll back, such has been the precision of engineers to give this sensation.

More up and down sections follow to give guests a hearty dose of airtime thrills. The middle section of the ride, Batman: Gotham City becomes more technical with added twists and turns through narrow rockery and another tunnel. Another inverted drop leads riders



to the third launch section and a fantastic element of inverted track, which suspends them upside down ever so gently for three seconds. This sensation produces a terrific hangtime feeling and is one of the best elements of the Batman: Gotham City Escape. As you head towards the end of the ride, another tunnel awaits before being launched for the third and final time to an uphill section, which has no end track and so riders get to the top and continue backwards as they reach the end of their journey. The carriages of Batman: Gotham City Escape are fitted with lap bar restraints in the mid-section of the body, giving riders more freedom when travelling on board. The trains also light up at night giving a differing ride to the day when shooting through the lights of Gotham City.

The roller coaster produces three launch sections throughout its journey, its first launch speed hits 54km/h (33.5mph), the second being its fastest at 104km/h (64.6mph) and the final launch section is 80km/h (49.7mph). Its tale of the tape reads a 45-metre (147ft) maximum height, a top speed of 104km/h and travels over a 1.010-metre course. Riders enjoy an adrenaline-filled 111 seconds of delight onboard Batman: Gotham City Escape. The dive loops especially pack a punch with four inversions in total. Guests on the ground also get a great glimpse of Batman: Gotham City racing around the park as it travels over the footpaths of a large part of Parque Warner Madrid.

The ride shimmers at night with a stealth like gloss. The pink and blue spotlights projecting light onto the entrance buildings heightens the senses for a menacingly good ride.

And guests will be able to take away a memory of their stay in Gotham City with the official Batman ride shop providing a whole host of merchandise opportunities. It is a ride two years in the making since it first started construction back in 2021 and Parque Warner Madrid has backed its new Batman themed ride with a significant investment of €20m (£17.3m).



The opening ceremony of Batman: Gotham City was a sight to behold with a show featuring Batman, Robin and the Joker jostling through a cleverly choreographed stunt scene, fire effects and an appearance from the Batmobile. The stunt show is another added attraction that guests can marvel at. By night, a spectacular firework display and a wonderful drone show took place, including a full model effect of Batman mapped out in the sky.

Arantxa Orusco of Parque Warner Madrid took InterPark into the world of Gotham City for further insight into Batman: Gotham City Escape.

DESCRIBE YOUR EMOTIONS AROUND THE OPENING OF BATMAN: GOTHAM CITY ESCAPE.

Arantxa Orusco: "For us it is a pleasure to see how a project of such enormity and relevance like this, has come to reality. Batman: Gotham City Escape has received very good reviews from visitors and for us, that is the most important. We are very happy with the opening."

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLANNING THIS RIDE?

AO: "The design team started working on the new attraction in 2017, although it was in March 2019 when this ambitious project officially got underway. Since then, over 1200 hours of work has been undertaken to bring Batman: Gotham City Escape to life."

HOW HAS IT BEEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTAMIN?

"We needed to plan effectively towards the development of Batman: Gotham City Escape, which includes engineers, designers and many more people to make this dream a reality. Without doubt, Intamin has been essential in this great project. The design and construction of the first multi-launch roller coaster system in Spain are the fruits of the labour by the Swiss manufacturer Intamin, which specialises in this sector of

the industry, and of which we worked hand in hand on this project. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with them and their great team of professional engineers, as well as Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment, P&P Projects and employed clients of Parque Warner Madrid and Parques Reunidos (who oversee the park), who have all made it possible for thousands of visitors to enjoy this great attraction in Parque Warner Madrid."

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES OF CONSTRUCTING THE ATTRACTION?

"We wanted to construct a unique multi-launch attraction in Spain and one of the biggest challenges was that this icon of an attraction was visible from all areas of the park but at the same time, didn't ruin the aesthetics of Parque Warner Madrid. We have managed to integrate this great multi-launch ride in the park after months of work from many integrated teams that have made possible this great and new experience. "It was important for us to construct an attraction that is the most immersive possible and one that can be lived from start to finish through various meticulously created scenes, and where the visitor can find numerous facts and curiosities; for which we had to think in every detail to make a unique and innovative experience in the sector."

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE PROCESS OF INCLUDING COMPLEX RIDE ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE TOP HAT AND THE ANTICIPATION STALL?

"To make an attraction as important as this, it was necessary to incorporate unique elements and emotions to make visitors feel the adrenaline during the whole of the ride.

We were clear, for example, that we wanted Batman: Gotham City Escape to have at least three inversions. And we had to find a way to mix this with other emotions. It was during these conversations that the idea of the Top Hat measuring 45-metres (148ft) in height came up. The feature would have an inclination degree of 98°. Our mission was to find the ideal design and I believe that we have achieved it with an attraction that travels through a large part of the Parque Warner Madrid."

HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE BATMAN BRAND?

"Our alliance with DC Comics is one of our most established standard bearers in Parque Warner Madrid. Batman is one of the most important and recognised characters in the world, much like his well-known villains, such as The Joker. For us, it was fundamental that these characters were present in every moment so that the visitor feels the experience in Gotham City universe, the darkest city of DC Comics.

"As mentioned, all of the details towards this ride were thought up in order to achieve this immersive experience in all senses. From the moment that the visitor enters Wayne Mansion, they are transported into this enigmatic world, hear the famous laughs of The Joker, enter the Batcave and then pass through to the end of the queue line experience at Gotham City Metro, where the visitor escapes from an attack by The Joker."



IF YOU COULD SUM UP BATMAN: GOTHAM CITY ESCAPE IN A PHRASE?

"Batman: Gotham City Escape is a unique experience that will transcend Parque Warner Madrid with a clear before and after feel. Besides being the only multi-launch roller coaster in Spain, Batman: Gotham City Escape is an experience where the visitor will live from beginning to end from the most enigmatic city of DC Comics: Gotham City."

With Batman: Gotham City Escape up and running, Parque Warner Madrid has a truly world-class roller-coaster attraction and represents a game changer for the Spanish theme park community with the aim to attract more visitors from Europe and across the world. And at a park known for taking guests on a journey through their favourite comic book heroes, fans of Batman and beyond can ride Batman: Gotham City Escape and take on the role of the caped crusader in hailing that immortal phrase, "I'm Batman."



LET'S STAND UP TO THE WEATHERMAN!

By: Dennis Speigel

Whether you believe in global warming or not, there is no question that seasonal weather patterns that affect our leisure industry are constantly changing. In fact, during the last 15 years, we have seen the weather throughout our seasons definitely fluctuating. Here in the United States, spring seasons seem to have gotten wetter as we lead into our industry's core operating season. The prime season seems to have – depending on the region – gotten both wetter and hotter (something we are currently experiencing in early July in the USA). Looking into the fall seasons, September and October, it appears that our weather has gotten more moderate, providing great temperatures, particularly as it relates to the fall Halloween promotional period in the month of October. In fact, to validate the importance of good fall weather, various park operators have already begun promoting Halloween in June! This demonstrates the importance of good fall weather for this industry-wide event.

While we would all agree that our weather patterns are changing, I believe meteorologists, at least those across the USA, have regularly had a negative impact on our outdoor leisure industry attendance. They begin forecasting flashes of rain “on the come” anywhere from five to 12 days in advance with ever-changing possibilities and endings. We have seen where this can have a great impact on our industry because people who are planning to go to a theme park or waterpark typically make their plans four to five days in advance. If they begin hearing about extreme weather that may or may not be coming, it has an impact on their eventual planning and attendance at a park.

During the last several years, we have seen where the weather predictors have had as many misses as they have accuracy as it relates to rainy weather. In fact, statistics show that a five-day forecast is correct about

90% of the time, while a 7-day forecast can accurately predict the weather about 80% of the time. However, a longer forecast, such as above 10 days, is right only about half of the time.

This “15 minutes of fame” allotted to the meteorologists has been spooking our marketplaces and our guests’ planning. Incorrect forecasts definitely have an impact on our business, as we saw leading into July 2023.

As an example, as I write this article here in Cincinnati, the weather has been gloomy. We did have some minor rain. However, the bulk of the rain that was forecast, along with the horrendous storms and tornadoes that were constantly predicted, never materialised. The overzealous forecasts certainly had negative impacts on numerous leisure projects throughout various markets. The meteorologists were beating the drum with these anticipated negative weather prognostications a minimum of 6-7 days prior to the proposed weather event. In most cases, nothing of consequence occurred, thus cancelling many guests’ plans to visit.

When the weather predictors come back on air after having missed these forecasts so dramatically, their apology does not put money in the coffers for the businesses that did not hit their projected attendance/ revenue goals.

I believe that we as an industry - and I am talking about the theme park industry primarily – should make a concerted effort in the future to establish communication with the media in a manner that requests they report the weather more accurately and that they do not hype it so negatively that it drives people into their basements! A meteorologist could just as easily forecast in this manner: “Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to have some showers this week and are predicting a 40% chance of sunshine.”



Let the viewer figure out the 60% possibility of rain (which may not appear). The message is still clear – but it is not as damaging and would yield far less negative impact.

Now I know this message will be reached with some scepticism by a few. However, weather is playing a much greater factor in people's decisions to visit and in the daily operating plans of our parks and attractions and therefore cannot be ignored. When weather forecasters really miss their projections, it can be monumental to a park's daily performance. We saw this impact in many parks this 4th of July holiday period. We did have some sketchy weather, but in many cases not yielding the forecast broadcast.

In the future, I believe we have to do a better job of working with the weather forecasters coming up with an upgraded way to improve the forecast message to our guests, and also correcting erroneous predictions. When you consider the negative revenue impact that can occur from misdiagnosed weather forecasts, the numbers when pulled together can be staggering.

During the last two years, I have had numerous calls with investment bankers inquiring about the impact of weather on a park's bottom line. This is a clear indication to me that the investment community undoubtedly wants to know how parks and attractions are going to react to budgeting their weather forecasts in the future.

Weather has been overused as an excuse that operators put out in their various quarterly reporting to shield operating issues. Now it has become a major planning and budgeting issue that is essential to getting financials properly projected.

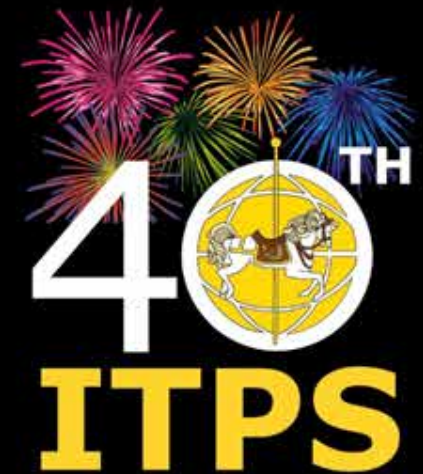
This is a topic that needs to be addressed on both sides of the ledger, both with weather forecasters and operating staff. Here's to sunny skies!

About ITPS

ITPS... "WHERE FUN IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS," is globally the leisure industry's leading independent, full-service consulting firm. Founded by Dennis Spiegel in 1983 and located in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, ITPS is uniquely qualified to assist in all aspects of leisure project development and has worked on over 500 projects and in over 55 countries since its inception. Always on the forefront of new trends, ITPS is experienced to assist in all aspects of any new project or existing facility. They can be reached at itps@interthemepark.com. ITPS is celebrating 40 years of service to the amusement industry in 2023.



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BLACKGANG CHINE

By Emma Davidson



Photos by David Rutherford

The oldest theme park in the UK, Blackgang Chine is located at the Southern tip of the Isle of Wight just below St Catherine's Down. Originally opening its doors way back in 1843, the park is celebrating a massive milestone - its 180th anniversary this year, a magical journey characterised by family fun, numerous "lands of imagination" and an astonishing history on the picturesque coastline of the Isle of Wight.

Blackgang Chine was built by Alexander Dabell and is still run by the Dabell family to this day. Relocating from Nottingham to the Isle of Wight in the mid 1800s, he saw the potential of the beautifully positioned chine that overlooks Chale Bay and acquired the land on which the theme park still sits in 1842. Dabell immediately set to work on his new project, building ravine led pathways, taming the out-of-control terrain and landscaping gardens atop the cliffs. The name 'Blackgang' Chine is said to have come from the sides of the chine being predominantly black due to mineral deposits of iron in the soil.

During the Victorian era, the Isle of Wight became one of the most popular romantic summertime destinations due to its magnificent seaside location, which Dabell took great advantage of with the launch of Blackgang Chine. Cliff top walks around the park and the surrounding areas gave breath-taking, panoramic views of the English Channel and the south-western Isle of Wight coastline, which meant that many chose Dabell's new venture as the place to spend the warmer months. In late 1842, a giant fin whale was stranded ashore by The Needles in the Isle of Wight, a discovery that attracted swathes of media attention and went on to become Blackgang Chine's very first attraction. Dabell won it in an auction, and the creature's bones became the beating heart of the park – visitors can still visit the

showpiece today as they enter the world of wonder. Later, Blackgang Chine became the destination for all things weird and wonderful, with its hall of mirrors and hedge maze attractions opening to the public in the 1960s. The well-loved Crooked House followed soon after, a fun house concept in which the floor is tilted in different directions, as well as the Mouth of Hell, a huge open mouthed, sharp toothed face that intimidatingly welcomes guests inside its red interior.

In the 1970s, Blackgang Chine popped up on popular children's show Blue Peter as the park began work on its outdoor Dinosaur Land, an attraction featuring life size fibreglass dinosaurs that were delivered to the site by helicopter. This was replaced in 2014 with Restricted Area 5. In the 90s, the park went on to welcome the Rumpus Mansion, the reimagined Snakes and Ladders attraction, and Water Force, before the 'Giant Bug Walk' and 'BBC Coast' came later. BBC Coast was an exhibition based on the popular BBC 2 TV series that explores the picturesque Isle of Wight coastline.

Over the past 180 years, Blackgang Chine has become an integral part of the Isle of Wight's tourism industry and has welcomed millions of visitors from across the UK and beyond. The park's unique charm, coastal location and endless attractions make it a favourite destination for families looking for a day of adventure. Due to its position, the park is prone to landslides, with one of the biggest taking place in 1989. Despite this, Blackgang Chine has continued to thrive and innovate, always pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the world of theme parks. In 2023, the Isle of Wight theme park is home to life-sized pirate ships, fairy villages and castles, the Dodo Valley, Restricted Area 5 and, of course, the original Cowboy Town, which was built in 1994. Cowboy Town is one of the park's most popular 'lands of imagination' and transports guests to their very



Extinction. Courtesy of Blackgang Chine

own Spaghetti Western, complete with stables, horses, saloons and outlaws. Across the town, there are various pop-ups including the 'General Stores' a stop-off for cowboy essentials, as well as 'La Cantina' which serves a menu of burgers and hotdogs to visitors.

The park's main focus is on themed entertainment for families and young children, with huge, life-size animatronic dinosaurs being another stand-out attraction, located within the Restricted Area 5. Over the years, Blackgang Chine has gathered praise from many nostalgic celebrities that visited the park during their childhood, including Harry Potter actor Rupert Grint, for the eccentricity found across its several themed lands of imagination that span pirates, underwater kingdoms and more.

The Underwater Kingdom is an area full of glistening underwater caves, coral reefs, and an abandoned sunken shipwreck. Additionally, the restricted Area 5 allows guests to get up close and personal with



Landslips at Blackgang Chine

dinosaurs of all types, including an Argentinosaurus bigger than a double decker bus, and the biggest animatronic T-Rex in the country.

The Dodo Valley documents one of Blackgang Chine's most significant discoveries, which happened back in 2012 when the sea unearthed rare Dodo eggs that hatched on the island. Guests can also stroll around the enchanted fairyland, explore classic childhood rhymes in the Nursery Land and jump aboard mythical pirate ships in Pirate Cove.

In celebration of its 180th birthday, Blackgang Chine recently welcomed Extinction, a brand-new Zamperla ride. This adrenaline-inducing adventure ride has a 360° pendulum swing taking guests 18-metres up in the air, but its cascading views across the coastline is what makes this ride truly unique. Additionally, a programme of events in celebration of the park's milestone anniversary are taking place throughout 2023, too. The park recently hosted its big birthday weekender with a birthday ticket deal that granted guests complete access to its attractions and offers, including character meet and greets and family photo opportunities.

For the rest of the year, the park has organised spot prizes for its 180th visitor through the gates each day, competitions for guests and a timeline to track the history of Blackgang Chine and where the park is heading. Alexander Dabell, the current managing director of Blackgang Chine, grew up on the Isle of Wight and has been involved with the park his entire life. His family has owned and run Blackgang Chine since its inception, and he is proud to continue the tradition of providing families with unique and thrilling experiences. Speaking ahead of the birthday weekender, he said: "There is something uniquely special about Blackgang Chine - with the gates open, there is joy and laughter all around.



Dinosaurs airlifted into Blackgang Chine, 1972



Dinosaur in situ at Blackgang Chine, 1972

"We are incredibly proud to be celebrating our 180th anniversary, Blackgang Chine has been a formative, early holiday memory for generations of families, a testament to the place we hold in people's hearts and minds, and the hard work and dedication of our staff over the years. We have come a long way since we first opened our doors, but our commitment to providing families with unforgettable fun and thrills remains as strong as ever and can't wait to share our milestone year with visitors from all over the world."

For 2023, the park is bringing back the 'land of imagination live', an onstage spectacle that transforms areas of the park with dancers, actors and performances from July until September. Visitors can expect pirates, fairies, sheriffs, and dinosaur doctors across its three-month run.

Also, during the summer season Blackgang Chine also welcomed the Isle of Wight's huge Summer Festival that takes place every Wednesday evening from 26 July until 30 August. Beautifully positioned, crowds flock to watch the sun set behind the cliffs of the theme park before it comes to life with foam parties, fireworks, DJs and more. During the colder months, Blackgang Chine hosts themed events to celebrate Halloween. Frights and sprites creeps back for October half-term, complete with a spooky mansion, discos, fancy dress competitions and puppet shows, and Terror Island is the South Coast's biggest, multi-award-winning scare attraction. Visitors can partake in its collection of experiences, which include a dark descent on one of the park's thrilling rides and an onsite café serving nerve-calming cocktails and food.

Alongside its big birthday plans, Blackgang Chine has several rides and attractions that are enjoyed throughout the year by visitors. Evolution, another Zamperla ride and one of the park's most popular attractions, is suited to both adults and children. The ride sits above the dinosaur enclosures in Restricted Area 5 and has a 400ft drop, plunging guests up into the air and back down to 'sea level'.

Waterforce is the Isle of Wight's biggest waterslide complete with 'Overflow' chutes and the dark 'Plughole'. This exhilarating ride is fun for the whole family, with the choice of riding in pairs or solo. Another popular ride at Blackgang Chine is Snakes and Ladders. The attraction is the classic family game reimagined as a huge, life size version complete with ladders to clamber up and down, as well as slides in the shape of snakes.

Rumpus Mansion offers guests a glimpse into a world full of mythical creatures, including goblins, gremlins and pixies, and Mr Mel-O-Dee's Musical Pet Shop is full of weird and wonderful animals from the Tasmanian devil to the chatterbox parrot. A theme park staple, Blackgang Chine is also complete with a hall of mirrors that houses warped mirrors that are almost 100 years old.

No theme park is complete without a place to stop off for some food and drink, and the hospitality at Blackgang Chine ranges from grab and go snacks to restaurants serving hearty English classics including fish and chips made to be enjoyed by the sea. During the warmer summer months, Blackgang Chine also hosts barbecues, burger meal deals and pizza evenings for families.

The park's iScream outlet is another very popular place to eat and features an extensive range of Napoli ice creams, including an exclusive Blackgang Chine chocolate birthday cake flavour complete with dino sprinkles that was launched in celebration of the park's 180th year.

Blackgang Chine has had one of the most compelling history's across the parks and attractions industry. From the bones of a washed-up whale to new rides that cascade over the Isle of Wight's stunning coastline, it has shaped family holidays and childhood adventures for over a century and a half and shows no sign of stopping. Now focused on continuing its legacy, Blackgang Chine has plans to innovate further with new rides and attractions set to launch at the park over the coming years. Never forgetting its roots, guests will still get the chance to marvel at the almost 200-year-old whale bones, alongside learning about the history of the Isle of Wight attraction, but with new rides such as Extinction breathing new life into the park, it can still continue to create magical memories for all of the family.



Sunset Sessions



Jim and Michelle

JIM LIGGETT

RCI Adventure Products is based in Allegan, Michigan, USA and has been manufacturing rope courses for almost 35 years. Here, Beth Whitaker sits down with company owner, Jim Liggett to find out how he got into the business.



Laguna Beach Bar & Grill

TELL ME WHO RCI ADVENTURE IS?

RCI Adventure Products will be a 35-year-old adventure company as of March 2024. We started out by building ropes courses up in the trees at summer camps and went on to become the leader in ropes course design. RCI invented the steel ropes course and continues to be innovative. Our rebranded name from Ropes Courses Inc to RCI Adventure Products reflects our expanded growth over the years. RCI builds adventure products for small 'mom-and-pop shops' to larger locations and cruise ships. RCI has products in 45 countries worldwide and growing.

WHEN DID YOU START WORKING IN THE PARKS AND ATTRACTIONS INDUSTRY?

I actually started my career at a YMCA summer camp. I went from building tree ropes courses for camps to creating ropes courses for the amusement industry. I built my first ropes course in 1983 and the best part was operating over 15 courses with my wife, Michelle. I wanted to change ropes courses from only being available for the camp industry and make it available for people in the public.



Destination Series Monument ClipnClimb



Laguna Beach Bar & Grill Sky Rail



Destination Series Monument

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR HIGHLIGHTS DURING YOUR CAREER?

Working with all of our customers, including Disney, Carnival Cruise Line, and Main Event, which we have over 36 projects with. I love building these products. We also just finished a big build in Kuwait featuring our new Destination Series.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE PROJECT?

Every project is my favourite in some way, but if I had to pick two, I'd say Laguna's Beach Bar and Grill and the new Destination Series at New Messilah Beach in Kuwait. The Destination Series is our newest product offering that is bigger and more show-stopping than ever. Each multi-attraction entertainment hub combines both harnessed and unharnessed play to create a unique interactive space for large amusement parks and waterparks. If a client is looking to expand their hands-on activities or cater to crowds of hundreds at one time, then this is the solution for them.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE DESTINATION SERIES?

With three configurations to choose from and five major attraction components included in each, there's no shortage of excitement. Participants are also able to engage with various difficulty levels depending on which attraction they decide to venture onto, i.e. unharnessed netplay or Clip 'n Climb climbing challenges. Needless to say, the entire family is encouraged to join in whether that's actively participating or watching on the sidelines with the camera ready!

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR OTHER PRODUCT LINES?

Our clients can choose from various rope courses including: Sky Trail; Sky Tykes; Sky Rail; Clip'n Climb; Adventure Trail and Amaze'n Mazes, we can also supply Sterilisation Stations, which ensure operators' equipment meets CDC and WHO guidelines quickly and safely, while maximising business efficiency.

What significant changes have you seen in your sector? Unfortunately, a significant change is more people copying our products. We currently have 10 companies copying us, this keeps us on our toes.

WHAT MAKES RCI ADVENTURE UNIQUE?

We are the pioneers and are constantly inventing. This allows us to take the products even further. Currently employing over 100 highly qualified people in such fields as design, engineering, manufacturing, installation and operation of various amusement attractions, RCI fervently strives to revolutionise the domain of adventure products by constantly experimenting with new amusement attraction design concepts and technologies. Every attraction that it engineers is done so with patented integrated systems, which increase the level of safety, reduce labour costs, and raise the amount of participants for high capacities, as well as increase the age range for guest participation. Looking forward, our goals are to continue to do what we do and to expand to more customers while creating new products.

A NEW INITIATIVE TO HELP YOU PROMOTE HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS

By Carl Hagemann, general manager, ADIPS

If you are involved in the amusements industry, you will know that public confidence in the safety of rides is integral to the success of theme parks. Amusement parks are relatively safe when compared with other leisure activities and, in fact, represent some of the safest of all. However, when serious incidents do occur, they generate widespread media coverage because they resonate with anyone who attends and enjoys parks. The incidents are often dramatic events, which make them newsworthy and helps to explain why the safety of amusements is in the public consciousness. It is also why, then, that demonstrating safety standards can be an effective way for a park to assure customers and ultimately win more business.

This year, ADIPS is launching a number of initiatives to help you promote safety in your parks, including a public-facing scheme called Your Ride Checker. You will know that ride maintenance and safety is extremely important and that all parks in the UK are subject to regular checks. Inspection bodies (IBs) on behalf of ADIPS carry out four types of inspection that fall into two categories - pre-use inspections and the in-service annual inspection.

When an amusement device is inspected and certified under ADIPS, the operator is issued with a Declaration of Operational Compliance (DOC), confirming all relevant inspections have been satisfactorily completed and the ride has been certified as safe to operate until the expiry date on the DOC.

All registered amusement devices and DOCs are registered in the ADIPS central database of amusement devices, and to search for a DOC you need the device's ADIPS ID number.

From August, amusement parks will be able to demonstrate to customers that their rides are inspected and certified as safe to use by signing up to the Your Ride Checker sticker scheme, which are designed to be posted in public view, on amusement devices, or at park entrances or information hubs, and carry QR codes that enable the customer to scan and check that the park has the necessary ADIPS DOC. It's a simple and effective way to give members of the public access to information on ride safety and it can be a part of your action plan to inform customers and win their confidence.



How does it work?

- To get your stickers, go online to the special application page on the ADIPS website - adips.co.uk/controllers-membership - and complete your application form.
- Once completed, you will get your unique Controller ID number. This number is important as it is yours for life.
- To complete your application, you will need information to hand before you apply, including the legal owner's full name, address and contact details and all of the Device ID numbers of the devices on your park.

We aim to get the stickers posted out within one month of your application.

We know that with the necessary safety checks and regular maintenance, the chances of a safety breach with an amusement device are slim. Some years ago, it was quoted that the probability of someone being injured on a theme park ride was one in 24 million. However, the amusements industry is not complacent and I know from speaking to managers that safety standards remain a core focus of strategy and operations for parks in the UK.

The ADIPS Your Ride Checker scheme will help you provide your customers with that added confidence and assurance. It will help you communicate an important message, that your rides are regularly inspected and passed as safe to use.

CALENDAR

August 23 – 24

Theme Park – Water Park Expo Vietnam 2023,
Tan Son Nhat Pavilion Convention Center,
Ho Chi Minh City, VIETNAM
 Contact: Fireworks Trade Media Co., Ltd. 18th
 floor, Indochina Park Tower 4, Nguyen Dinh
 Chieu, Da Kao Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City,
 VIETNAM
 Tel: +84 9063 091 78
 Email: viet@fireworksviet.com
 www.themeparkvietnam.com

September 26 – 28

IAAPA Expo Europe, Messe Wien, Vienna,
AUSTRIA
 Contact: International Association of Amusement
 Parks & Attractions, 4155 West Taft Vineland
 Road, Orlando, Florida, USA
 Tel: +1 321 319 7600
 Fax: +1 321 319 7690
 Email: iaapa@IAAPA.org
 www.iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo-europe

October 13 – 15

15th China (Zhongshan) International Games
& Amusement Fair
 Contact: Tina Zhang
 Email: sales@grandeurhk.com
 www.zsgaf.com

October 25 – 26

WWA show 2023 New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
 Contact: Patty, WWA
 Tel: +1 913 5990300
 Email: patty@waterparks.org
 www.waterparks.org

November 15 – 16

Family Attraction Expo, NEC, Birmingham, UK
 Contact: Fortem International, 33 Colston Ave,
 Bristol, BS1 4UA UK
 Tel: +44 (0) 2030264418
 www.familyattractionexpo.co.uk

Additional copies of InterPark
 distributed at these events.

As dates sometimes change, please check with
 organisers before visiting international trade
 events.

November 28 – 30

MAPIC, Palais des Festivals, Cannes, FRANCE
 Contact: Reed MIDEM, 27 Quai Alphonse Le
 Gallo, CS 10026 Boulogne, FRANCE
 Tel: +33 179 71 95 15
 Email: Daniela.jakovljevic@reedmidem.com
 www.mapic.com

November 14 – 17

IAAPA Expo Orlando, Orange County
Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, USA
 Contact: International Association of Amusement
 Parks & Attractions, 4155 West Taft Vineland
 Road, Orlando, Florida, USA
 Tel: +1 321 319 7600
 Fax: +1 321 319 7690
 Email: iaapa@IAAPA.org
 www.iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo

January 11 – 13 2024

Atrax '24, 11th International Amusement –
Attractions, Parks – Games and Sport Fields
Industry Exhibition. Istanbul Expo Centre,
Istanbul, TURKEY
 Contact: Tureks International Fairs co.
 Tel: +90 212 570 63 05
 Email: nergis@tureksfuar.com.tr
 https://atraxexpo.com/en/home/

January 16 – 18 2024

EAG 24, Entertainment, Attractions & Gaming
International Expo, ExCel London, UK
 Contact: EAG 29-30 Ely Place, London,
 EC1N 6TD, UK
 Tel: +44 (0) 204502 6795
 Email: sales@eagexpo.com
 www.eagexpo.com

March 5 - 7

DEAL 2024, Dubai World Trade Centre,
Dubai, UAE
 Contact: International Expo-Consults (IEC)
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 Email: deal@iecdubai.com
 www.dealmiddleeastshow.com

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Gosetto.....	18
Great Coasters	
International	41
Holovis	26
HUSS	21
IAAPA Expo Europe.....	4
Intamin	43
Interlink	19
Jinma Rides	IBC
Mack Rides.....	IFC + 5 + 45
RCI Adventure	OBC
Rolba Loisirs	53
Seasonal Entertainment	
Source.....	37
Severn Lamb	35
Simtech.....	27
TDi.....	37
Vekoma.....	47
World of Rides.....	22
Zierer.....	24
ZTAG	29



Cover Image:
 Courtesy of Blackgang Chine

July/Aug Issue 4, 2023

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Annual Subscriptions (6 issues)

Europe & Middle East £80
 North & South America & Africa £95
 Asia & Australia £105
 InterPark (ISSN 1359-6284)
 is published six times a year for an
 annual subscription rate of £80 by
 InterPark International Limited.

Graphic Design:
 Redpin Publishing Ltd
 www.redpin.co.uk

Advertising & subscription
information
Tel: +44 161 6100022
Email: admin@interpark.co.uk
Website: www.interpark.co.uk

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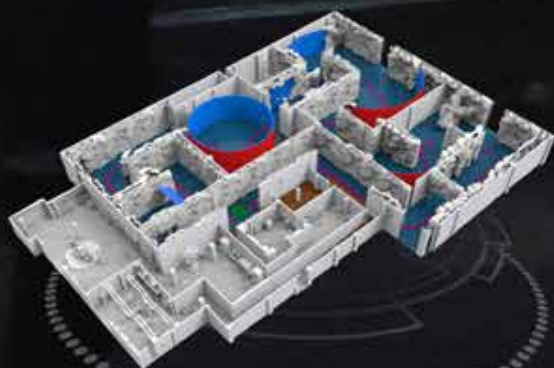
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 Lane, Hadfield, Glossop, Derbyshire
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